Next Month

THE DANGERS OF BRANCH BANKING

John T. Flynn

As the country faces the problem of reconstituting its banking system the proponents of branch banking are pushing to the fore. While Mr. Flynn favors branch banking, he sees in it a very serious danger which must be guarded against and which he does not think is receiving sufficient attention. In this timely article he forecasts the danger and sounds a warning against it.

CONTENTED AMERICANS

Eudora Ramsay Richardson

Believe it or not, Eudora Richardson knows where there are four of them — four old maid sisters who live a life of complete self-sufficiency in the mountains of South Carolina. They raise all their own food and do all their own work, including the plowing, wood-cutting, and general repair work around their farm. The depression has hardly touched them. This charming picture of their peaceful life offers welcome escape from the tribulations of present existence.

DO WE NEED A MINIMUM WAGE?

Frances Perkins, Leo Wolman, & Others

Sweat shop conditions are back again. Decent employers who have been in business for years are being ruined by the cutthroat competition of marginal producers with little capital investment and no scruples about squeezing their employees. How can these jackals be driven off and their workers protected? Must we have legislation regulating hours of work and setting minimum wages? What are the objections to it? Read this Socratic dialogue between Frances Perkins, the new Secretary of Labor, Leo Wolman, and manufacturers who oppose such legislation.

THE INCUBATOR OF GREATNESS

Lyttleton Fox, Jr.

The Harvard Law School has turned out many of our most eminent jurists. Here is an entertaining account of the manner in which the aspiring are driven up the Olympian heights, written by one who is on his way.

FORUM and Century

HENRY GODDARD LEACH, *Editor*

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JOKING aside: This book contains the inside story of the ousting of William Fox from his companies, as told by William Fox to Upton Sinclair. There has been nothing like it since the days of Tom Lawson's "Frenzied Finance." The great names of present-day America are all here: Herbert Hoover, Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Charles Evans Hughes, Samuel Untermyer, Will H. Hays, Bernard M. Baruch, Adolph Zukor, Louis B. Mayer, Clarence M. Dillon, Albert E. Wiggin, Harry L. Stuart, Harley L. Clarke.

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TOASTS

G. F. WARREN spent his boyhood on his father's farm in Nebraska. After graduating from the University of Nebraska, he taught school for a while and then entered Cornell University, where he has since become a professor of Farm Management.

S. GRISWOLD MORLEY is a professor of Spanish in the University of California. His fondness for hiking over rough trails in the Mother Lode country does not extend to the railroads, which he claims do not provide the proper setting for bumping the bumps.

ROBERT KENNETH STRAUS, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1927, has been working with Professor Raymond Moley of Columbia, now Assistant Secretary of State. During the presidential campaign, Mr. Straus was active in the Roosevelt Business and Professional Men's League.

GRENVILLE T. CHAPMAN was born in England but was brought up in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. For many years he was engaged in mining and farming in Mexico and the South. Since 1929 he has been living in El Paso, Texas.

JAMES MERRIAM MOORE entered the Regular Army as a lieutenant in 1912. He is now a major, serving on the General Staff. His article, of course, expresses only his personal opinions.

H. MUNRO FOX, Professor of Zoölogy at the University of Birmingham, is editor of *Biological Reviews*, a quarterly devoted to problems of research.

PAUL HUTCHINSON, Managing Editor of *The Christian Century*, is the author of *The United States of Europe* and *Storm Over Asia*.

FAITH MARIS was formerly Assistant Editor of *The Unipartizan Review* and a member of the staff of the *Chicago Tribune* in Paris. For the greater part of the past ten years she has lived abroad.

THE ANONYMOUS author of "Why I Am Having a Child" has worked for various magazines in New York.

JULIAN HUXLEY, biologist and writer, is a grandson of Thomas Henry Huxley. He was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and in Italy and Germany. At various times he has taught at Oxford, Rice Institute, Texas, and King's College, London.

ISABEL R. A. CURRIER was born in New Hampshire and spent her childhood in Vermont. She is a feature writer for the Sunday magazine section of the *Worcester Telegram*.

FLORENCE SYKES MELLOR graduated from Syracuse University in 1928. She is married and lives in Los Angeles, where she is attending the graduate school of the University of Southern California.

CYRUS FISHER is well qualified as a radio critic because of his work in writing and producing radio programs.

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The flowers that bloom in the Spring, tra-la—and the tomatoes, carrots and beans, too — don't just grow up. Now's the time to plan for planting, and books will tell you how — and your bookseller will tell you of the books — he has, in fact, a new, carefully edited list that you'll surely want.

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Notice of a change of address, to be effective with the May issue of FORUM must reach the Subscription Department by March 31.

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BOOKS IN BRIEF

THE COMING STRUGGLE FOR POWER, by John Strachey (Covici, Friede, $3.00). There is no aid nor comfort for capitalism in this brilliantly disturbing book by one of the younger members of the famous Strachey family. Formerly a Labor member of Parliament, John Strachey appears to have been converted to communism by logic rather than by messianic faith. The major part of his book is devoted to an analytic study of those central weaknesses of capitalism which, in Mr. Strachey's opinion, render any permanent recovery impossible. He subjects to this remorseless fire the economic theories of Sir Arthur Salter and J. M. Keynes, the free traders, the national planners, Ramsay MacDonald and the British Labor party, and all those other props on which capitalism depends. Mr. Strachey has an enormous range of knowledge, a considerable fund of wit, and a fine crusading eloquence. He has translated Marxism into clear, concrete terms suited to the Anglo-Saxon mind. Whether one tends to agree with him or not, this is as stimulating and arresting a book as the current crisis has produced.

PAGEANT, by G. B. Lancaster (Century, $2.50). In these days of universal disillusionment it is pleasant to read a novel as frankly romantic as this. It is the story of the founding and development of the colony that became Tasmania. After giving land grants to people of good military or civil standing to organize this island, the British Government decided to turn it into a penal colony and sent boatload after boatload of convicts to it. Thus, while Australia began to flourish and grow fat, its neighbor Tasmania was being constantly handicapped by trying to assimilate a criminal population which was under prison rules. This tale deals mainly with two of the leading families of Tasmania, the Comyns and the Sorleys, each striving for the chief power in the new country and bound and complicated inevitably by ties of blood and breeding. The action of the plot traverses several generations and comprises an epic of this land whose colonization took place even later than our own.

REVOLUTION: 1776, by John Hyde Preston (Harcourt Brace, $2.90). Most of us have forgotten two things which this informal history of the colonies' fight for independence makes clear. First, that the American Revolution was an exciting, brawling affair in which whisky, sweat, jealousy, and passion played more important parts than schoolbooks credit them. Second, that it was a revolution, and therefore as subject to disapproval and denunciation among the conservative as a communist uprising would be to-day. We have forgotten, too, the battle maneuvers which Mr. Preston re-creates for us, in too great detail but with considerable skill. The book is an admirable blending of scholarship and pictorial imagination; the constantly shifting scenes it offers are colorful, living, not bookish, yet one feels that faithful research underlies them. Mr. Preston has written a story for which there was a definite need, and he has written it well.

THE ADVENTURES OF A BLACK GIRL IN HER SEARCH FOR GOD, by Bernard Shaw (Dodd, Mead, $1.50). With something of his old astuteness, Shaw refers to the "curious and sudden inspiration" which led him to write this tale. Curious it certainly was. Inspired by a woman missionary, the agile-minded black girl sets out to discover deity, encounters the God of Noah, of Job, of Micah, Christ himself, and various other assorted gods, finds them all unsatisfactory, and ends up by "cultivating her garden" in company with Voltaire and a suspiciously familiar red-haired Irishman to whom she bears a brood of pickaninnies. Attached, of course, is an explanatory preface in which Mr. Shaw makes some not very original observations about the deficiencies of the Bible. Some of the old wit is there, but on the whole his parable is not as brilliant nor as notable as it might be.

THE ABOLITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, by Frank D. Graham (Princeton University Press, $2.00). Commenting upon plans and panaceas offered for turning the depression, George Soule said, in the March FORUM, "The Barter Exchange or Graham Plan is indubitably successful in limited localities and groups as a means of unemployment relief." This, indeed, is all that Dr. Graham, Professor of Economics at Princeton University, claims for his program. Unlike most theoretical economists, he does not believe in an elaborate planned economy. He regards production as necessary to prosperity and proposes to make producers out of idle consumers simply by virtue of putting them back to work under a system of barter, whereby the products of their toil could be exchanged for other needed products. His plan would not conflict with the existing system nor would it narrow the existing market for goods paid for in cash. Graham, who regards results as more important than theories, exhibits far more intelligence than could be expected from one of his professional persuasion.

ERIE WATER, by Walter D. Edmonds (Little, Brown, $2.50). The author of *Rome Haul*, an expert on the history and customs of the Erie Canal, here takes us back to its very beginnings, when the whole thing was looked upon as a mad and

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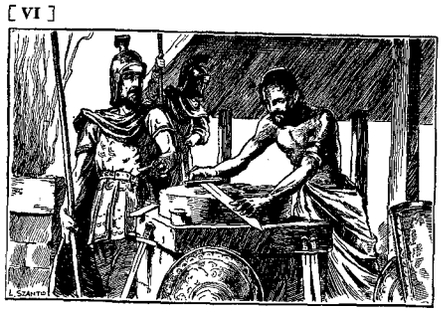

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Books in Brief

adventurous feat and not even the people most intimately connected with it knew just what its scope would be. Jerry Fowler, a young man from upper New York State, was starting out to seek his fortune farther west, when he was attracted by the sight of a lovely "redemptioner" in Albany. He bought up her papers and later married her, and it was this circumstance that brought about his change of fortune from a solid and unimaginative farmer to a pioneer engineer of the greatest waterway the world had known. Without money to go ahead with his farming project, he was forced to take the work nearest at hand, which was canal construction, and eventually he was placed in charge of the building of the locks, the most thrilling invention of the new canal. Under Edmonds' skillful hands the story of this construction assumes the epic proportions which it deserves.

HENRY ADAMS, by James Truslow Adams (Boni, *$2.50*). Since this brief and rather perfunctory biography was originally written to preface a collected edition of Henry Adams' works, it would be unfair to judge it too rigorously. While it is nothing like so good as *The Adams Family*, it at least serves the useful purpose of filling in the gaps in the *Education*, and of so giving a clear, concise, connected account of Henry Adams' life. It does not, however, offer any very fresh or fruitful analysis of Adams' work nor of the mainsprings of his character. It is merely all right as far as it goes.

POCAHONTAS, by David Garnett (Harcourt, Brace, $2.50). With the aid of charts, reports, and journals of the day, Mr. Garnett has re-created a complete and convincing picture of the colony at Jamestown and of its dealings with the Indians of Powhatan's nation. Surely a worse equipped group of pioneers never set foot on a hostile shore, for these people had been led out to the Virginia colony by visions of a tropic paradise and a land rich and encrusted with gold. They found fever, starvation, and well-aimed arrows, and a terrific quantity of work to be done, with very little reward. In addition to this, there was a constant warring of factions in the perpetual contest for the leadership of the colony, and it was only by a miracle that the entire group was not annihilated. Captain John Smith was a burly, coarse army man, but by virtue of his indifference to hardship and his practical military training, he became temporary leader of the colony and staved off death for a while. The famous story of his capture by the Indians and rescue by Pocahontas, the little Indian princess, is one that every schoolboy knows, and here it is given its due importance. The lovely character of Pocahontas, and the changing of her life from that of a pagan little girl to the wife of a sober tobacco planter of the Virginias, is one of the outstanding qualities of a book which brings alive one of the most colorful pages of American history.

PRISON DAYS AND NIGHTS, by Victor F. Nelson (Little, Brown, $2.75). This account of prison life by that rare individual, an articulate prisoner, is a startling commentary on our penal system. The author, having spent twelve and a half of his thirty-four years in various prisons for crimes ranging from assault to robbery, gives a vivid picture of his experiences. With the statement that no single attempt was ever made to reform him, he gives an appalling picture of the ineffectiveness of punishment in reforming the ordinary criminal. His chapters of "Remembered Conversations" between prisoners, depicting the average convict's attitude toward society and the many disclosures of the vicious aspects of prison life, including such chapters as "Drugs," "Prison Stupor," and "Men Without Women," are startling and convincing. The book is well written and has been handled sufficiently impersonally to make the reader feel that it is a fair presentation of the evidence against our present penal system.

THE MASK OF SILENUS, by Babette Deutsch (Simon & Schuster, $2.00). This novel about Socrates and his circle is a pleasant exception to the general rule that the ancient Greeks are poor material for modern fiction. Not only do the famous figures come to life — Socrates, Plato, Crito, Phaedo, and the rest — but in re-creating them Miss Deutsch has managed to outline in a painless fashion the chief elements of the Socratic philosophy. In all probability more than a few of her readers will turn back to her original source, the Platonic Dialogues, there either to be introduced to or to refresh their memories with the treasures of which she here gives us an alluring part. As a footnote to a great book, then, Miss Deutsch's novel is an unqualified success. Its satiric implications, however, in which an effort is made to relate the Athenian dilemma to our own, are often vague and confused.

THE LOVELY LADY, by D. H. Lawrence (Viking, $2.00). The posthumous publication of these short stories does their author no great service. Several of them are distinctly mediocre, both in idea and execution, and even the best are far below the level of, say, "The Prussian Soldier." The most interesting tale is "The Rocking-Horse Winner," which mingles childhood and the supernatural

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Books in Brief

into a satisfactorily gruesome compound. The story most typical of Lawrence is the final one; it is by no means the best in the book, but it does illustrate its author's strength and weakness as a writer of short fiction.

BELINDA GROVE, by Helen Ashton (Doubleday, Doran, $2.50). With evident relish, and with a kind of nostalgia for the colorful charms of the past, Miss Ashton follows the fortunes of a beautiful old Regency house built in 1815 on the outskirts of London. As the neighborhood degenerated, Belinda Grove was stripped inexorably of its glories and was put to more and more ignominious uses. Covering over a century of change, Miss Ashton has woven a number of separate stories, several of them excellent, into the main pattern of her house's history. It was a clever idea, and she has handled it nicely.

THE ENCHANTED WINTER, by Martin Hare (Harper, $2.50). This wholly beguiling tale of a clergyman's family who live in County Cork is just about the best light novel of the season. Under the mistaken impression that his impoverished relatives, the Pallisers, can teach him how to become an Irish country squire, a young English bank clerk named Philip Silver pays an extended visit to Kilmartin Rectory. There he lives in the midst of Civil War yet never learns what it is all about. He learns a great deal, however, about Irish life, and he succumbs completely — as does the reader — to the charms of Ireland, and more especially to the charms of the eccentric young Pallisers.

SOUTH MOON UNDER, by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (Scribner, $2.00). The wild, desolate region of the Florida Scrub is the setting for this leisurely, richly indigenous novel. Several generations of the Lantry family fought the elements stubbornly, winning a precarious livelihood from farming, trapping, logging, and — finally — moonshining. Despite the ardors of their life, they loved the Scrub, with its remoteness and peace, and they adapted themselves to its exigencies with intelligence and courage. Unlike Mr. Faulkner's degenerates, these people had human dignity, and though their experience was limited, Miss Rawlings succeeds in making one feel that it was significant, and worth writing about.

JEHOL, by Sven Hedin (Dutton, $3.50). In 1933 the Japanese armies are determined to bombard Jehol back into the front page of the news. This book by a great Swedish explorer retells the romantic saga of Jehol when it was the garden of the imperious Son of Heaven.

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Keep Them Husky

IF YOUR child has never been brought into close contact with anyone who has tuberculosis, you can count yourself lucky because boys and girls are more susceptible to the disease than grown people. Most children who pick up tuberculosis germs get them from someone who has an active although often an unrecognized case of the disease.

Whenever a child is found to be infected, there should be an immediate search for the source of the infection. A child may be in daily association with an older person who is entirely unaware of the fact that he or she has tuberculosis which can be transmitted to others. The condition is probably thought to be chronic asthma or bronchitis.

However, why guess about possible infection? You can almost always find out by the simple tuberculin test whether or not your child has picked up any germs of tuberculosis.

If he has become infected, you will surely want to take the next step—have an X-ray examination to learn whether or not any harm has been done or is being done. Even though the germs are lying dormant, an infected child ought to be under medical care and carefully watched.

Many tuberculosis experts are of the opinion that the majority of the active cases of tuberculosis in adult life are partly or largely traceable to infection in childhood.

Despite all the progress that has been made in fighting the disease, it still causes more deaths and more invalidism between the ages of fifteen and forty-five than any other disease. Be on guard. Use all the help afforded by science to protect your children.

If detected in its earliest form, most cases of tuberculosis can easily be controlled and arrested. But if cases are permitted to develop to the point where the familiar first signs appear—loss of weight, lack of appetite, indigestion, fatigue and a persistent cough — there comes a long battle which can be won only with expert medical care, proper food and rest.

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F O R U M

APRIL, 1933 VOL. 89, NO. 4

We Have a Leader

We have a leader. Every gesture and facial expression of our new President shows physical and moral courage. On March fourth I had the good luck to sit on a bench at the Capitol directly in front of Franklin Roosevelt while he delivered his Inaugural Address. In the afternoon I sat in a reviewing stand opposite the White House and watched him hour after hour acknowledge with smiling resoluteness the salutes of the Inaugural Parade. By his brave and military but friendly manner as well as by his few and frank but determined words he converted a day of national tragedy — the closing of our banks — into a day of quiet cheerfulness and moral revival for the whole nation.

In his consecration of the people through discipline, in his self-sacrificing assumption of responsibility, in his appeal to God for help, the President made his Inaugural Address an utterance as momentous as Lincoln's second Inaugural and Wilson's Declaration of War.

For months the business men of America have been querulously complaining that what they needed most was leadership. Now they have leadership, clear-eyed and straight-from-the-shoulder. For months they have charged Congress with befuddlement and incompetence. Our new leader in his Inaugural declared in effect that he would give Congress fair opportunity to legislate for the emergency but that if this Legislature likewise became confused, he would act fearlessly and directly on the clear mandate of the people. This is something bold and ringing in our national politics that we have not heard since the days when another Roosevelt was in the White House.

Action, I sometimes suspect, is dearer to Franklin Roosevelt even than words. He has the stuff to have made a great Admiral in a major naval encounter. As Governor of New York State he had a way of making the act precede rather than follow his announcement. He met emergencies pragmatically as they arose and devised the measures which he conceived to be most helpful for the people and then published the result. Instead of prophesying and boasting and promising he preferred to test and try out and then formulate experience into policy. It is unlikely that President Roosevelt will proclaim an inflexible monetary policy at whatever cost. Instead, he will steer our national finances from week to week as close to the traditional course as is compatible with the best interests of all the people.

In the opening days of his administration President Roosevelt has given the nation confidence by interpreting in action the hope inspired by his Inaugural. Within thirty-six hours his bold and definite proclamation averted the danger of a nation-wide currency panic. Hour by hour act has followed act and concrete pronouncement. Fear, even in these dark days of uncertainty, is giving way everywhere to resolution, and the whole nation is smiling with our leader.

In his Inaugural the President expressed the hope that we would place other values ahead of money. That morning I had seen him go into church to meet his old teachers and ministers in prayer. Mr. Roosevelt has always known how to manage his practical affairs, but he has always preferred people to profits and morals to money. Let us hope that the moral victory achieved by the American people this March will never be clouded in the long and arduous task of economic recovery now undertaken by the nation under the leadership of President Roosevelt.

— H. G. L.

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Is Our Gold Standard Too Rigid?

by **GEORGE F. WARREN**
Professor of Agricultural Economics, Cornell University

THE ECONOMIC catastrophe in which we find ourselves is due to a fall in commodity prices. What made prices fall? A correct diagnosis must precede a constructive policy. The reason why no progress has been made in curing the depression is that the cause of it is not generally known. One tabulation gives 118 assumed causes, about as many as the assumed causes of typhoid fever before the one cause was known.*

NOT OVERPRODUCTION

IN 1932, wheat production per capita was the lowest for any year since 1866. It is true that the stocks of wheat in the United States are rather high. This is primarily due to difficulties in selling wheat in competition with countries whose money has been more stable in value. It happens that the crops of 1920 and 1929 were both short crops at the time when prices collapsed.

The production of corn per capita in 1930 was abnormally low, yet corn fell in price. The crop this year is large owing to unusual weather.

Last year the cotton crop was large; this year it is small. Large stocks have accumulated because unemployment has reduced consumption.

Before the war, the total production of all commodities in the United States increased at the compound rate of 4.03 per cent. From 1915 to 1929, the rate of increase was only 2.11 per cent per year.

Before the war, the output of all commodities per capita rose 1.73 per cent per year; for the period 1915–29, it rose to .64 per cent per year.

Snyder's index numbers of physical volume of production for the world lead to the same conclusion. From 1865 to 1914, production increased 3.15 per cent per year. Since the outbreak of the war, this rate of increase has been checked.

So far as the writer has observed, no person who has studied the statistics of production has found any evidence to support the thesis that overproduction caused the depression, nor has he found any record of a person who now explains the depression on the basis of production who foresaw the depression. Correct forecasts were made on the basis of monetary factors.

There is a great difference between overproduction and underconsumption due to unemployment. If the trouble is overproduction, it can easily be cured by cutting production. If it is underconsumption, we must find a way to put the unemployed to work so that they can consume, rather than attempt to cut production to what an unemployed man can buy.

NOT TOO MUCH EFFICIENCY

IT IS easy to be deluded by apparent efficiency in factories into thinking that the needs of humanity can be supplied by a few hours of work per week. Division of labor leads to erroneous conclusions as to increases in efficiency, because only a part of the process is visible. A farmer with a tractor, tractor equipment, a combine, and a truck, is able to grow and harvest much more wheat than was formerly grown per farmer. The increase in efficiency is far less than is assumed, because there has been a change in the residence of those whose time is involved in the production of wheat. Many invisible persons are involved in the production of machinery and fuel that the farmer uses. The total human time required to produce a bushel of wheat has prob-

* *Much of the material here presented is reproduced from* Prices, *by G. F. Warren and F. A. Pearson, by permission of the publishers, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.*

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ably not decreased much more than the average increase in efficiency in the production of all goods.

At no time in history have we any statistical evidence of a sudden increase in the output of total goods per capita. Spectacular inventions sometimes affect one industry, and there is a steady growth in efficiency in all industry, but never a sudden increase in all industry. We now have two examples of striking decreases in output per worker due to unemployment resulting from the panics of 1920 and 1929. From such low bases, a rapid increase to normal can occur.

Not a Business Cycle

The depression is not a business cycle. It has no more relationship to a business cycle than a tidal wave has to a tide. This is a collapse in the price structure from which there is no cyclical recovery. During such a collapse, several suppressed business cycles may occur. A favorable cycle in the textile and shoe industries occurred in 1932.

Not Too Much Democracy

By specialization, each of us produces so much of something that each of us can have more of everything. The battery that keeps this modern machine running is the medium of exchange — money. When money is stable in value, the machine works well. When inflation occurs, it runs too fast. When deflation occurs, it stalls. Since the exchange of goods is stopped, unemployment occurs, and there is starvation in the midst of plenty.

The millions of unemployed in cities would like to produce goods that the farmers want in exchange for food. The farmers would like to exchange food for things that these unemployed persons would gladly produce. But the medium of exchange has broken down. It has also broken down as between workers within the cities. The unemployed carpenter would like to build a house for the unemployed textile worker, who, in turn, would like to make textiles in exchange for house rent. But since the exchange system has broken down, both are unemployed. In some cases, we have reversion to barter, but our civilization is too complex to allow this to go far.

Most of us believe in a society organized on the basis of individual initiative; that is, a capitalistic society. The operation of such a society depends on the medium of exchange. When the medium of exchange fails to function, the organization of society that depends on this medium is attacked. If we cannot invent a stable measure of value, there is danger of forcing some kind of a socialistic state that will attempt to regulate distribution and production by government action.

When the battery of an automobile fails to function, we should get a new battery rather than turn to a wheelbarrow. If we are to discard automobile transportation, it should be on the merits of the automobile and not on the accident of a defective battery. If we are to adopt state capitalism, socialism, or communism, it should be on the relative merits of these systems rather than because of a failure of the medium of exchange to function properly. The thing to correct is not the organization of society but the tool that is not working properly.

Not Tariffs

The depression is not due to tariffs. We forget our time schedule. The depression of 1920 came at a time when we had a low Democratic tariff. Harding proposed to cure the depression by raising the tariff, and we have since cured it once more by the same method. The movement to raise tariffs all over the world has come as a result of falling prices. Tariffs are a futile attempt to prevent prices from falling when gold is rising in value. The way to get rid of tariffs is to restore prices, and tariffs will gradually be lowered. While excessive tariffs are a result of depression, they in turn cause further trouble.

Not Lack of Confidence

Neither is the depression caused by lack of confidence. Here again, we must watch our time schedule. Certainly there was plenty of confidence in 1929; and ever since, there has been too much confidence. Many persons thought that the depression was over in the fall of 1929, in the fall of 1930, again in the fall of 1931, and again last fall. This over-confidence has continually led to further losses and has prevented the adoption of remedial measures. The Coué idea was given a good trial last year when the Federal Government helped credit agencies to expand credit, with the idea that confidence was the trouble. There is still

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misplaced confidence. Many persons think that we can start a building boom even though we have bankrupt supplies of buildings on the market.

What Is Price?

Once upon a time, a farmer found that he could get 23 hogs for 60 sheep. At a later time, he found that it required 120 sheep. Why the change? Some might say that there were too many sheep at the second date. Others might say that there were too few hogs. Others might say, correctly, that we do not know. There might have been too many sheep or a reduced demand for them; or there might have been too few hogs or a high demand for them. There are many other possibilities. There might have been a shortage of both sheep and hogs but a greater shortage of hogs; or there might have been a surplus of both sheep and hogs but a greater surplus of sheep. The only way to determine the cause of the changed relation is to compare sheep and hogs with many other things. Suppose we find that hogs exchange for twice the former amount of innumerable things. Who would then be so foolish as to attempt to explain the changed ratio as due to the supply of sheep? But if we change the 23 head of hogs to 23.22 grains of gold and change the sheep to pounds of wheat, practically everyone says at once that there is an overproduction of wheat. If a bushel of wheat (60 pounds) exchanges for 23.22 grains of gold (otherwise named $1), and if at a later time it takes 2 bushels of wheat to get the dollar, we blissfully explain it as too much wheat.

There are four factors in prices, not two, as is commonly supposed. This error has been the cause of innumerable business failures and of much foolish legislation. The price of wheat is the ratio of the supply of wheat and demand for it to the supply of gold and the demand for it.

Our present measure of value is a given weight of a single commodity, the value of which changes with the supply of this commodity, and the demand for it, in precisely the same way as the value of any other commodity changes.

The "money illusion" is as thoroughly dominant in this generation as was the illusion of a flat earth about which the sun revolved in the time of Galileo. It is almost as dangerous for an economist to challenge the money illusion as it was for Galileo to threaten the foundations of civilization by saying that the earth revolved.

Relation of Gold to Prices

If the explanation of the depression is not to be found in the supply of commodities, we must turn to one of the other three factors for an explanation.

The demand for commodities was good at the time the collapse occurred. The severe unemployment has reduced demand, but this is primarily a result of, rather than the initial cause of the depression. The reduced demand resulting from depression is in turn a cause of further depression.

The supply of gold has not been keeping pace with the normal growth of business, but the supply of gold is sufficient to support prices at about the pre-war level with all the world back on a gold basis, and gold used with pre-war efficiency.

The depression was caused by the fourth factor in price — demand for gold. This was so low as to allow prices on a gold basis to double. This was followed by a demand so high as to cause the present depression.

Why Did Prices Fall?

During the war, prices on a gold basis doubled. How did this occur? For the very simple reason that most of the world not only abandoned the gold standard — it stopped bidding for gold. Gold therefore moved to the few places where it was freely purchased. The low demand reduced its value. The value of gold is determined by world supply and world demand, not by location.

Beginning in 1925, there were gradual efforts to return to the gold basis. Americans took a leading part in urging and financing this return, not realizing that the return of demand for gold would raise its value and cause a price collapse. France returned to the gold basis June 25, 1928, and the gold panic was soon on. It is still here.

The gold standard was never fully re-established. The rise in the value of gold caused such a calamity that the effort to re-establish it had to be stopped, and 32 countries have now suspended gold payments. At the time of writ-

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ing the United States is the only important country which is attempting to maintain its pre-war currency.

World monetary gold stocks in 1914 amounted to 388 million ounces. In 1928, they were 537 million ounces, or an increase of 38 per cent. Many persons have been misled by this increase. They say that the gold supply is larger than ever before, and therefore must be large enough. This is just as logical as to say that a boy's suit is the largest one he ever had and therefore must be large enough. World's business has not been increasing at its pre-war rate since the war broke out. Otherwise, there would be a great deficiency in gold, even for pre-war prices.

World production of all basic commodities increased only 38 per cent from 1914 to 1928. This is exactly the same as the increase in gold.

There was just enough gold in 1928 to support pre-war prices if gold were used with pre-war efficiency. But prices in England were 45 per cent above pre-war, and in the United States they were 41 per cent above pre-war. The pre-war relationship is now restored with prices at 90 when pre-war is 100. A price level below the pre-war relationship to gold was to be expected because of price momentum and inefficiency in the use of gold.

Our situation is such as would have occurred if the world had suddenly acquired a doubled supply of gold and after becoming adjusted to it, had lost the extra supply in two successive collapses.

If all the former gold-using countries return to the gold basis, and if the United States continues to maintain its present monetary standard, it is to be expected that commodity prices will average below pre-war for the next ten years. Extremely violent price fluctuations will be expected as each country attempts to secure and maintain more than its pre-war share of the world's gold supply. Each country needs about 50 per cent more than its pre-war share of the total.

An Historical Parallel

After the French Revolution broke out, metal currencies were abandoned as fully as they were abandoned during the World War. France went onto a strictly paper basis, metal left the countries in which there was no market for it. The United States was on a "hard money" basis, and prices rose 70 per cent from 1789 to 1796. For many years, some European countries were out of the market for gold and silver. England began to attempt to return to a gold basis in 1818, and prices in the United States on a metal basis fell 31 per cent from 1818 to 1821, at which time England finally re-established the gold standard.

Will Gold Production Raise Prices?

Gold production fell very low in the war period. Some persons have made the mistake of measuring the recovery and calling it increase in gold production. This is trebly fallacious.

1. It measures the rate of increase from an abnormally low point.

2. It would be incorrect in any event, because it is of course monetary stocks, not gold production, that affects prices.

3. It assumes that a gold supply sufficient for pre-war prices is sufficient for business needs. Business became adjusted to a price level about 50 per cent above pre-war. To support such a price level would call for gold stocks equal to the normal supply, plus 50 per cent.

Gold is an important industrial commodity, the use of which increases at about the same rate as other basic commodities. In order to keep pace with the growth of industry, gold stocks need to increase about 3.15 per cent per year. In order to have this increase, it is necessary to mine about 5.6 per cent of the stocks, because a considerable part of the production goes for industrial uses. With gold stocks at 577 million ounces in 1931, production of about 32 million ounces would be required to take care of normal industrial use and add 3.15 per cent to stocks. The actual production is about three-quarters of this amount. If deflation is carried out, the next generation may have inflation from high gold production, but such production is not in sight.

World gold stocks are now about sufficient to support pre-war prices with the world back on a gold basis and gold used with pre-war efficiency. With monetary chaos, efficiency is not to be expected. Individuals, banks, and nations demand high reserves. If the price level were adjusted to the gold supply, the production is about sufficient to cause prices to decline one per cent per year.

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Debts and Taxes

During the many years when there was a low demand for gold, our debt, tax, and business structure became fairly well adjusted to a commodity price level about 50 per cent above pre-war. We are, therefore, in the position of having a world gold supply of only about two-thirds the amount required to support the price level to which business is adjusted, provided the former gold-using countries continue to bid for gold. This situation results in such a frantic demand for gold that even the gold supply which we have is used inefficiently.

Deflation or Reflation?

The price level must be raised to the debt level, or the debt level must be lowered to the price level. This is a matter of grim reality that cannot be cured by psychology, confidence, or government lending.

We must choose between deflation and reflation. No country likes to change its monetary system, nor does any country like to go through wholesale bankruptcies and continue to have millions of unemployed. Our choice is not between two desirable things. It is between two undesirable things. Merely raising the well-known objections to either procedure does not commend the other. The question is: "Which is worse?"

If we wish to go through with deflation, we may as well proceed with the bankruptcies, foreclosures, and public defaults and get them over with. Merely postponing by lending some money or attempting to hold up the price of this thing or that thing, will accomplish very little.

At the new price levels, public and private debts are nearly equal to the national wealth. These debts will have to be reduced. The only plan thus far proposed for reducing them is bankruptcy and private adjustment. This will probably require three or four years for the major adjustment and a generation to complete the process. While the more serious part of this is taking place, bankrupt homes, farms, and other properties will always be for sale at less than new costs of construction, regardless of how low these costs may fall. Therefore little building of any kind is to be expected. Consequently most of the basic industries will operate at low capacity and severe unemployment will be continuous. Business cycles in such a period will be suppressed cycles.

The vigorous efforts to reduce taxes will do well if they succeed in making cuts equal to the new taxes necessary to feed the unemployed. Some shifting from real estate to other forms of taxation may occur.

Public debts will increase and some of the government units will find it impossible to meet their obligations. It will be years before taxpayers get these debts paid.

Adjusting a price level down requires much more time than adjusting it up. It is not difficult to adjust public and private debts to a higher price level, but it is very difficult to reduce them. To adjust debts up merely requires that the usual purchases be made at the new price level with the usual percentage of credit transactions. To adjust debts down means the slow process of bankruptcy. Bankruptcy acts like a house of cards — each bankruptcy starts another.

Large numbers of corporations will disappear by bankruptcy or by combination to avoid bankruptcy. Wholesale writing down of the capital of industrial plants, farms, and city real estate will be necessary. Costs of distribution will gradually decline so that prices paid to farmers will again come into adjustment with the prices which they pay. Much of this can be done in a half-dozen years. Probably it can be completed in a generation.

Some basic commodity prices have fallen too low even for the conditions, and will rise.

Innumerable measures will be tried in attempts to hold up prices of this or that thing. Tariffs, bounties, farm boards, domestic allotments, restrictions on trade between states under sanitary and other guises, pools, gentlemen's agreements, and many others will continue to be tried. Some of these may do a little good, but they will continue to result in disillusion and disappointment. Maintaining the present price of gold means bringing the whole debt and price structure down. To attempt to hold each individual thing up and yet bring down the whole is like sinking a ship but attempting to hold up each rivet and doorknob in it.

Nothing is gained by minimizing the gravity of the situation. Repeated confidence statements cannot change the fact. They discredit leadership and cause losses to innumerable

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individuals through false hopes. While the country has never before experienced as great deflation as we are now attempting, we have had experiences which indicate the probable length of the deflation disease. It usually takes six or seven years to go far enough with the bankruptcy process so that construction can begin, and it takes many more years fully to complete the process.

It is not improbable that the high value of gold will result in discoveries of it, so that a later generation will have inflation.

If the process is carried through, a new generation can be prosperous — except as foolish laws remain to plague it. Any price level is satisfactory after business is adjusted to it.

Can Deflation Be Completed?

Almost any nation can stand a 10-per cent deflation; and of course, no nation could stand a 90-per cent deflation. Somewhere between these there is a limit for any country. There is considerable doubt as to whether a deflation process so drastic as that now undertaken can be carried through.

This is a very different problem from deflating after the Civil War, when we were the only important country that was off the metal standard. Now we are the only important country that is attempting to maintain the pre-war weight of gold in its currency. In the first three and a half years of the panic of 1873, prices of thirty basic commodities dropped 19 per cent. In the first three years of this panic, prices of the same commodities dropped 51 per cent. The liquidation that must be gone through with is correspondingly greater.

Conditions are very different from 1837 and 1873. A smaller percentage of the people then lived in cities, and farmers were more nearly self-sufficient. Many of the unemployed moved to new lands where they built log or sod houses and burned wood or buffalo chips. It was a less commercial age. The public did not have to contribute so much for relief.

Reflation

The effect of any given rise in prices is the same regardless of the cause. If for any reason the price level is restored, it does not mean that all prices will rise equally. Many prices have not declined, or have declined little. Restoring the price level would relieve them of the necessity of declining. The major ones are debts and taxes. If commodity prices were raised, buying would begin because rising prices cause buying. Jobs would be available. Houses would be in demand. The debts and taxes on the houses and farms could be paid, and the debts would not have to be cut by bankruptcy.

Many charges, such as freight rates, doctors' fees, telephone rates, and the like, are already adjusted to the price level that would be established. They would not rise, but would be relieved from falling.

Costs of distribution would rise very little. Therefore, prices paid to farmers and other producers would rise much more than retail prices. This would bring farm prices into adjustment with other prices. It is sometimes said that two steps are necessary: first, restore the price level, and second, restore the relationships of farm prices to other prices. If the first step is taken, the second follows automatically.

As workers began to be employed, they would buy goods and clothing and start business. Later they would move back into their former homes which are now vacant. Real estate values would gradually be restored. To restore reasonably well balanced business relationships and get the population back to work will take time.

What Stabilization Means

Stabilizing the commodity price level does not mean that any single commodity will be free from fluctuations in price due to the supply of it or the demand for it. It does mean that commodity prices as a whole may be freed from being swept up or down as a mass due either to world supply of gold or frantic changes in the demands for it. There are many proposals for limited or complete stabilization.

Credit Expansion

Some persons believe that all that is necessary is to expand bank credit. The same persons by the same reasoning thought that prices would not fall. This was the reasoning back of the billions that were lent to other countries from 1922 to 1929.

Some say that "confidence" is all that is needed. To imagine that after the greatest period of monetary chaos in history we are suddenly to have such a phenomenal world-wide growth in confidence is certainly optimistic.

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A gradual and slow increase in the amount of monetary circulation plus bank deposits per dollar of gold in the United States has been taking place for many years. There is no indication that the Federal Reserve System has speeded up this normal growth of circulation plus credit per dollar of gold. Whenever the normal is much exceeded, a reaction occurs.

By the management of credit, it is possible to throw commodity prices out of line with gold by a limited amount. There is no indication that any permanent change in this relationship can be accomplished in this way. Over-expansion of credit brings on a reaction, and so does over-contraction of credit. The policy of the Federal Government in 1932 was based on the theory that prices could be raised by credit. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation lent money to many agencies in the expectation that credit expansion by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Federal Reserve Banks would raise prices and restore equities back of securities and start business activity. The policy did check contraction, temporarily; but only a rise in the price structure can stop bankruptcies and start employment. It is not possible to expand credit sufficiently to do this and still maintain the present price of gold.

Currency Expansion

It is very easy to raise the price level by an expansion of the currency, but any expansion that is sufficient to restore prices of commodities to the debt level would make it impossible to continue to redeem each of the paper dollars with 23.22 grains of gold. There is no way of printing paper money that will make it possible materially to change the relative values of gold and commodities.

Any means of restoring prices will probably require suspension of gold payments while the plan is being discussed. This has now been done by all other important countries except those that have already cut the weight of gold in their money.

This does not mean wild inflation. The only cases of wild inflation have come after government bankruptcy. During the American and French Revolutions, both countries inflated until the money was "not worth a Continental." Similar inflation occurred during the German Revolution and attempts to pay reparations. Russia is in a revolutionary period and has had violent inflation.

England suspended gold payments for 24 years in the Napoleonic War period. She also suspended gold payments from 1914 to 1925 and now has suspended for more than a year. This makes a total of 36 out of 136 years off gold, but no case of wild inflation has occurred.

The United States has suspended gold payments four times, but even in the Civil War did not have wild inflation. Our average prices for the year 1864 were 193. Prices in England on a gold basis were 127. The worst inflation that has occurred since the Revolutionary War was on a gold basis in 1920, when prices averaged 226.

There is no danger of wild inflation except following revolution. If we should be forced to suspend gold payments, violent price fluctuations are to be expected for a time, but there is no cause for alarm about wild inflation.

Re-valuation

Most of the continent of Europe has reduced the weight of gold in the monetary unit. It is probable that England and the 31 other countries that have suspended the gold standard will do the same. If so, this will leave the United States as one of the very few countries that attempt to maintain the pre-war price of gold regardless of the supply of it or demand for it.

By reducing the weight of gold in the dollar, any desired price level can be established. The future course of prices would depend on the future supply of gold and future demand for gold. Re-valuation is a simple emergency measure. It does not make provision for future stability. The question may well be raised as to whether the time has not come for the adoption of a more stable measure of value.

Managed Currency

Two proposals have been advanced to provide for a permanently stable measure of value. One of these proposes a managed currency to be controlled in such a way as to keep the average of commodity prices stable. To operate such a system would require willingness and intelligence in the management, and freedom from influence by politics or desire for profit.

At innumerable times, after the failure of

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the gold standard, a managed currency has been operated with a considerable degree of success. England had such a currency from 1914 to 1925 and has had such a currency since September 1931. Prices in England since she left the gold standard have been more stable than prices here. Apparently, such a country as England could permanently operate such a currency successfully. The possibility of a managed currency should not be judged entirely by its success or failure when conditions are so bad that the gold standard has failed. Probably most countries will prefer a metal reserve.

The Compensated Dollar

The compensated dollar is a proposal to establish by law a currency redeemable in gold, but the weight of gold for which the dollar would exchange would vary with the index number of wholesale prices of all commodities; that is, if prices rose 1 per cent, the weight of gold for which the dollar would exchange would rise 1 per cent. If prices fell 1 per cent, the dollar would exchange for 1 per cent less gold. The gold would be kept in bars in the Treasury and central banks. This would keep the dollar stable in buying power for the average of all commodities.

The dollar has to be rubber either as to weight or as to value. It cannot have a fixed weight and also have a fixed value. This proposal would give it a fixed value and a rubber weight. It raises the fundamental question as to whether a medium of exchange should be fixed in weight or fixed in value.

A scientific money is one with a constant buying power for all commodities rather than a fixed weight of one commodity. Our whole tax and debt structure rests on commodity prices. If this structure is to be kept sound either for the creditor or the debtor, it is commodity prices that need to be kept stable, not the weight of gold for which a dollar will exchange.

Remonetization of Silver

By adopting bimetallism or symmetallism, it is possible to set any price level that is desired. If silver is remonetized, it should certainly be done by symmetallism, as proposed by the great English economist, Alfred Marshall. This proposal is now receiving considerable attention in England. It is very simple. Instead of having a dollar exchange for 23.22 grains of gold, it would exchange for some given weight of gold plus a given weight of silver. Since two commodities are more stable than one, and since silver production is less erratic than gold production, such a money would be more stable than gold. If once established, it would work in the same way in which the gold standard works, except for greater stability. It could be used as a basis for a compensated dollar.

International Co-operation

Certainly international debts need reconsideration, but it is the debts owed by Americans to Americans in America that are the principal problem. Nothing that can be done about foreign debts will pay John Jones' mortgage on his house or farm. Bad as are the tariffs and trade restrictions set up by every country in the effort to hold up prices, the greatest problem of commerce is to re-establish the exchange system between Americans in America. To wait for endless conferences is futile. We should either deflate as quickly as possible, or reflate. No one but Congress has authority over our currency. If we adopt a wise monetary policy, it will have far-reaching international influence.

The Gold Clause

A considerable number of bonds in the United States call for payment in a gold dollar of present weight and fineness. This does not apply to Federal Land Bank bonds or mortgages, nor to most of the mortgages of joint stock land banks and life insurance companies. These agencies agree to pay their creditors in lawful money and are therefore protected if they collect lawful money from their debtors.

The problem to-day is not whether creditors will be paid in any particular brand of a dollar, but whether they will get anything. Sometimes they get less than nothing, for they get a non-income-paying property with delinquent taxes. If the dollar is revalued Congress will probably invalidate such contracts.

Next Month — An Answer to the Arguments in Favor of Modifying the Gold Standard

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A Passenger's Complaint to the Railroads

Drawings by Donald McKay

by **S. GRISWOLD MORLEY**

I AM NOT a railway expert. I am the merest layman in transportation statistics. But I have just turned in the last tab of a thirty-day excursion ticket from San Francisco to Boston and return. 6816 miles is little enough to cover in a month, it is true, but so few persons do them by rail in this year 1933 that I feel almost an obligation to communicate the sensations of my adventure.

The railroads are in a bad way. Their stocks pay no dividends, their bonds are in default or close to it. The reasons are plain to all: depression, internal combustion motor. The first — will it pass? There are illusive bullish motions on the financial page. The second has come to stay. It is above you, as an airplane shoots past with mail and passengers. It is on the ground, in the long lines of automobiles paralleling the steel rails. In those sedans are the folk who once crowded day coaches, diners, and Pullmans; there and in the huge beetle-stages that jam the highways. Freight is more valuable than passengers, and trucks and vans, double-bodied, ugly, dangerous, are draining the railways of their lifeblood.

The railroads are humble. Once, on a broiling summer day, I was debarred from a diner because I wore no coat over my fresh silk shirt. Then I returned to my seat and for lunch devoured my dignity. To-day, wear what you like, and no conductor will challenge you. I rode this summer with a certain Olympic team, and its husky and hairy members dined in their jerseys, or, if they preferred, in their undershirts. Why not? I can recall the time when I stood in line an hour at the door of a diner before I could get a seat. This year I have on occasion been the sole guest, surrounded by four waiters. Once one had to make a Pullman reservation a week in advance. Now one walks aboard at any station and buys the pick of the car from the conductor. The once mighty boards of directors really want to serve the public now. They had to be well clubbed first. They did not repent easily or quickly.

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They are eager to serve but they don't know how to serve. It is a new line for them, and doesn't come natural. They need assistance. Now I have always loved trains, and I should be sorry to see a day when no immense locomotive, arrogant and necessary, came heaving down its immaculate roadbed. What can we do to save it, since its owners do so little?

They are so stupid and routinary! They show no resource or adaptability. Why do they make no effort to cater to the sort of men and women who ride in autos and buses? Take the diners. On some lines they serve food to match the price; on others they do not. But good or bad, diners are too dear for auto tourists. Why not provide, in addition to the swank dining car for the wealthy, a coffee-shop car for the patrons of the auto-camp? Within my experience, only one road, the Southern Pacific, has made the experiment, by converting one end of a day coach into a lunch counter — although I understand that a similar arrangement is in operation on a New York commuters' train. True dining car service can never be cheap, but the success of the "all-day lunch car" proves the need of a hot-dog stand on wheels. In these days transportation cannot afford to be aristocratic.

Next to eating, sleeping. In 1859 the Pullman Company began the manufacture of cars designed expressly to pass the night in. The succeeding forty years brought some improvements: so we are told by the leaflets which with expensive courtesy the Company scatters in the seats, and I believe it. But after 1900 the Pullman Company stiffened to a fossil state, and only when the public deserted it did the stone giant begin to wiggle its toes, wring its hands, and bestir itself with moans. Now, its publicity campaign, its elaborate window displays, are ridiculous and rather futile. Of course an upper berth ought to be easily accessible. Of course it should have a window. Everyone except the Pullman Company has known these things for years. Let its betterment program embrace a few more items. Let the hot water plugs of the lavatories emit real hot water. Let the berths, upper and lower alike, be provided with seats, so that the undressers need not wave their feet frantically in the aisle, while they roll about on the small of their backs. The curtains, even, might have fasteners that would hold them tightly and securely together. I speak here on behalf of the person within. He who strolls the aisles at a late hour of the evening enjoys, of course, a different point of view.

On a crack train you get much luxury and little comfort. You have bath, barber, radio, and valet, and you can neither keep clean nor sleep. Cinders cover your magazine and line the inside of your nose. You may have a spring bed and a drawing-room, if you can pay for it, but you may not lie quiet; you are bandied from one side to the other by curves in the right of way, or your skull is cracked against the headboard when the train stops. Some years ago Arnold Bennett, in an article on the Twentieth Century Limited, pointed out that American railway luxury covers all the side issues and leaves out the fundamentals. Cinders and jolts are accepted by everybody as inescapable accompaniments of railway travel. They are not necessary. I think better of American inventiveness.

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Already certain of our railways have attacked the problem of jerky stops and starts. The Santa Fé, I have been told, was the first to issue orders that engineers must handle sleeping passengers gently, or suffer punishment. Other roads have followed suit. It can be done. But I will testify that on other lines a passenger's comfort is far from the thought of the man at the throttle. Ye gods, what bone-crushing thumps! The engineer signals the approach of a station with a crash that runs the length of the train as if the cars were ninepins. The final stop is set with a snap that stands the dozing passenger on his head. There is a lull of two minutes, and he waits uneasily, knowing what comes next. The expected yank shoots him to the foot of the bed. He believes the crisis past, relaxes, turns over, and essays a nap between stations. Sometimes his guess is right. But I shall not soon forget a bad ten minutes at Michigan City, when an engine too light for its task struggled to add an express car to a string of twelve. Jolt piled on jolt till the most hardened drummer sat up and cursed aloud. . . . All this can be avoided — in Europe it is avoided — even with present tracks, wheels, and locomotives.

But if the railroads wish to compete with automobiles running on air-filled rubber tires over concrete and asphalt roads, they will need to go further. They must put rubber into their own wheels; they must end the grate and grind of steel on steel. It can be done. Experiments have already been made in this direction. They must be carried through, or the public will ride in autos. Those cute pendulum devices by which the division superintendent measures the minute irregularities in the track are most ingenious, but no amount of roadbed inspection can take the place of a rubber tire.

Cars are heated in winter, and we take it as a matter of course. Why not cool them in summer? Already this development is on the way — indeed is here on the Baltimore and Ohio and, I believe, one or two western roads. The New York Central's flaunted trick of injecting cool air into cars while they stand at the station is only a feeble gesture of advertising men. "Air-conditioning" will soon be accomplished en route. When it is, there will be no need of opening car windows, and the one problem of railroading that is beyond solution by the human brain, namely the sticking window, will have been suppressed by avoidance.

At the same time another evil, long regarded as inevitable, will be done away with — dirt. A train ride is a dirty ride, that goes without saying. The motorist on a modern highway is able to end the day without changing every stitch of clothing. But the shirt that travels a few hours in a day coach is headed for the laundry. Is that necessary? By the shade of Edison, no! Inventiveness can stop smoke and cinders and dust whenever it chooses. Better screening, better combustion, better ventilation, burning of oil, electrification, rock-ballast — these are the solutions. If the wise directors aver that the expense means bankruptcy, the reply is ready: bankruptcy awaits their present methods.

Perhaps our whole conception of a train needs refashioning. Our long, heavy coaches date from an era of full bookings. A car of half the length and lighter build would provide a flexible unit adaptable to the number of patrons. With rubber tires it would have still greater ease of riding. The mammoth freight car, too, intended for long hauls, is a sure loser in competition with the truck. Says a recent writer, "Railroad designs are out of date. The weights of all their cars in proportion to their net loads are several times what they ought to be. Their investment in all that equipment is excessive, and Jones, he pays the freight." Then, too, why not stream-line the cars, round the ends, and reduce air resistance?

Year-Round Excursions, Please

The business notions of railway directors are just as routinary and stale as their conceptions of rolling-stock. The ticket

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privileges which they vouchsafe us date from the nineteenth century. The unlimited stopover was for many years confined to excursion round-trip tickets. Why? It has recently been extended to some one-way tickets. Is there, has there ever been, any good reason for restricting the stopover? And what, after all, is the philosophy underlying the limited reduced-rate excursion ticket? Being a layman, I have never been able to comprehend it. If it pays to carry more people for less money between May 22 and October 31, why wouldn't it pay to carry them the year round for the same price? I can understand a special rate for a special occasion — the Glorious Fourth or the Olympic Games. I can understand a reduced rate to stimulate traffic in the off season. (It is not in the off season that excursion rates are in force.) I can understand that a corporation that may at some time cease to exist as a corporation will not wish to tie itself up with outstanding obligations for an indefinite period. But if the expiration limit were set at one year, regardless of the day of issue, the risk would not be too great.

Is there really any reason for the summer excursion, or the thirty-day excursion? Aren't they all a routine hangover from the time when competing roads offered extraordinary inducements to get the trade? Now that they no longer compete in rates, let them remove their time limits. Let them remove, too, that silly restriction of use by the original purchaser only. It's a farce, anyway. What does the railway care if it was I who bought the tickets or Jones of Jonesville? What it needs is more passengers to ride on its trains. Of course, the abrogation of this rule would be equivalent to establishing a one-way fare at half the round-trip rate. Let it be so. The beauty of an auto, we say, is that five people can travel as cheap as one; the overhead is the same. Is the economic law different on a railroad? Does it cost more to haul a coach full of people than one almost empty? If rates were cut in half, perhaps the number of passengers would be quadrupled.

Railways possess inherent liabilities and inherent assets. They should minimize the first and make the most of the second. Thus, the "Inflexible trajectory" is a weakness hard to overcome. A train must stick to the rails, an auto goes where it likes. But this same fact gives the railway one tremendous superiority which it does not play up as it should — safety. A train is one of the safest spots on earth to-day. When you ride the rails you are in less danger than when you take a bath in your own home; in far less danger than when you walk a street. There are railways — Boston and Maine, Southern Pacific — that have not killed a passenger in five years. All the railways of the United States lost but a hundred passengers in 1929, fifty in 1930; the number diminishes steadily. In contrast, the brutally mounting figures of automobile accidents disgrace humanity in general and this nation in particular. The American, with his pioneer notion of taking a chance, fondly conceives it will always be his neighbor, not he, who is hurt. The insurance on his car, hitting his pocket each year harder, might persuade him to the contrary.

The railroads have never capitalized as they should this enormous advantage, the difference between the forethought and skill which they display in caring for their wards, and the savage recklessness that prevails on our highways. The difference is permanent, too. Let no one suppose that safety campaigns will materially reduce the bloodshed of the road. As long as cars have to be steered, and ordinary human beings are allowed to steer them, so long will accidents clutter our hospitals. Rails guide, roads do not. A locomotive engineer is a highly trained, scrupulously supervised expert. He dares not drink or look aside. The average auto driver is a good-natured citizen who does what he damn pleases.

And Freight?

I have written, so far, of passenger traffic. As a passenger, I know it best, and yet I know also that even if the railways were to recover, by sheer inventiveness and adaptability, their lost business of this class, they would not be saved. Passenger traffic is only an incident in the life of a railway. Freight pays the dividends. And freight has fallen away no less than passengers, and for the same reasons: depression plus automobile plus stupidity and shortsightedness on the part of the railway chiefs. In this field lack of adaptability is more fatal.

It is trite to say, as every man on the street is saying, that the railways have been shabbily

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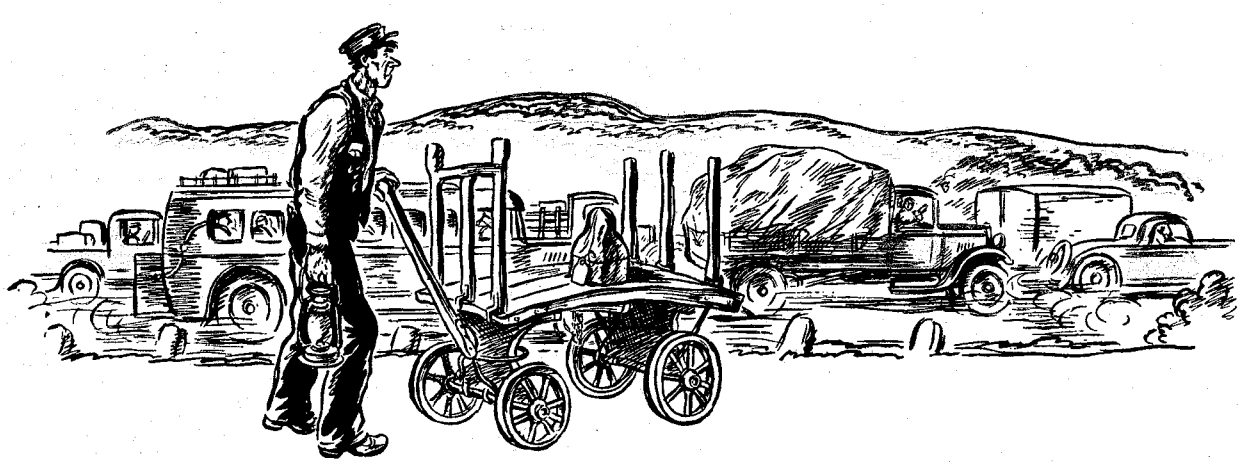
treated by the law, that they have been taxed for keeping up their splendid roadbeds, while their rivals have enjoyed highways constructed for them free of charge. All true, or almost true; and now that it is too late, the law is likely to be changed. Yet the railways are partly responsible for their own plight. They have again been shortsighted. They should have considered themselves in the business of selling transportation, not merely transportation by rail. If men and women wish to ride in buses and airplanes, the railroads should own stage-lines and operate airplanes. So, in fact, the Union Pacific does run buses, and the Pennsylvania sells air-service.

In some degree the same is true of the freight truck. The "inflexible trajectory" inhibits a rail-bound steam-line from performing certain rapid local services. But there is no excuse for the bother, slowness, and expense of present conditions. A rancher living nine miles from a railway station and two hundred from San Francisco reports that he can phone to the city for supplies and receive them by truck to his door in eight hours. To get them by rail requires four or five days. And "the cost of boxing them for shipment alone on the railroad is more than the cost of the freight by truck." That difference is simply silly.

In a timid, groping way a few railways are trying to provide house to house service. There are cities where you can load your furniture *uncrated* into a removable van, shove the van-body into a freight car, and convey the load intact to your new home at the other end of the line. Make this service universal, expand it to include delivery of single items, and the trucks will have lost part of their reason for existence. Tax them enough to equalize their burden with the railways, and some of those huge bugs might disappear from the highways. A chorus of "Thank God"'s would arise from the private drivers.

The railroads are in a bad way. We know it and we deplore it. They are victims of circumstance, caught, like street railways and real silk and bicycles and coal, in a net of new invention and discovery. It may be they are doomed, in spite of all our good wishes and their future ingenuity. It is possible that the man who invented the internal combustion motor struck a knife into the heart of the railways. But whatever the outcome, their responsible leaders have been dull-witted and shortsighted. They have kept up extravagant competition between parallel lines long after it became a source of loss — and the Interstate Commerce Commission, it must be said, has not been quick to help them. They have not seen the possibilities in rubber, they have not adapted their facilities to modern conditions. Other transportation is moving in the twentieth century while the railroads are still in the nineteenth. Perhaps the end of their era is at hand, but they could have put up a heap bigger fight.



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ROOSEVELT and the New Deal

by **ROBERT KENNETH STRAUS**

PRESIDENTIAL candidates like to wrap up their programs in neat bundles. Then they paste on labels which usually include the adjective "new" in order to emphasize that here are no shop-worn goods. Woodrow Wilson called his bundle "The New Freedom"; Herbert Hoover called his "The New Day"; and now we have Franklin Roosevelt and his bundle entitled "The New Deal." We will here take the pronouncements made during the election campaign and the events that have occurred since and attempt to see what the future holds in store in terms of domestic and foreign policy.

DOMESTIC POLICY

AS THE NEW Administration takes hold, it is obvious to everyone that the economic crisis is at its most acute stage. Industrial production is at sixty per cent of estimated normal. Commodity prices are at eighty per cent of their 1913 average, the lowest point they have yet reached. The banking situation has collapsed.

The disappearance of purchasing power because of unemployment and loss of savings is the first major problem which the "new deal" must unravel. The unbearable burden of indebtedness, both individual and corporate, is the second major problem. If Franklin Roosevelt can successfully solve these two perplexing questions, the promise of the "new deal" will in part have been fulfilled. The back of the depression will have been broken. The country will be on its way to recovery. It will then be time to undertake to complete the job — to take such steps as will guard against the recurrence of such a crisis.

How does Roosevelt propose to deal with these two immediate problems? His program will, I think, be best understood if outlined against the background of Hoover's program. After all, it is upon what it deems the errors of the outgoing Administration that the incoming Administration hopes to build its success.

Hoover's program to fight the depression was not set in motion until two years after the stock market crash of October, 1929. This delay may have been more responsible for the failure of the measures that were finally inaugurated than the measures themselves. In December, 1931, however, the Hoover Administration asked Congress to establish the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and in April, 1932, the Federal Reserve Board started its large purchases of government securities in the open market. These two moves can to-day be properly regarded as the two major policies of the outgoing Administration.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation, a completely new contribution to government, is nothing more nor less than a gigantic bank, backed by government credit, permitted to rediscount practically every sort of paper which is ineligible for rediscount at the Federal Reserve Banks. Between February 2, 1932, when it was established, and January 31, 1933, this corporation advanced over one billion, seven hundred million dollars. More than half this amount was loaned to banks. The remainder was divided between railroads, insurance companies, building and loan societies, mortgage loan companies, agricultural credit corporations, and livestock credit corporations.

The object of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is to substitute a government claim against debtor corporations for a private claim, wherever and whenever failure to meet the obligation to the particular private creditor is likely to lead to the bankruptcy of the debtor corporation.

Unquestionably, many failures have been avoided by the action of the Reconstruction

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Finance Corporation, which, through warding off the claims of creditors, has established itself as the largest of all creditors. The traditional sanctions of the economic system have been staved off and a great share of the private internal debt is at the mercy of the government, to be supported by additional federal credit, or to be liquidated by withholding this credit. The extent of the financial structures involved greatly exceeds the value of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation loans since these are distributed among thousands of institutions, against which the government, because of the character of the collateral it has demanded, can now take action which will affect the status of the total outstanding debts of all these institutions, including what they owe the government and what they owe all private creditors.

Will President Roosevelt continue this policy of staving off economic sanctions through substituting government claims for private claims? It has been the essence of the Hoover Administration's program, together with its attempt to bring about "controlled inflation" through the purchase of a huge amount of government securities by the Federal Reserve Banks. Between April and August, 1932, more than a billion dollars of United States obligations were bought. This operation, perhaps the most dramatic in the history of central banking, ended by making available to member banks of the Reserve system five hundred million dollars in excess reserves, permitting an expansion of loans of about five billion dollars. The expansion of loans, however, did not occur, due to the failure of the banks, apparently, to find suitable borrowers — only investments were increased, and chiefly investments in federal securities. Thus the hoped-for inflation did not materialize and commodity prices, instead of rising, as had been predicted by the sponsors of the operation, fell seventeen per cent after the purchases of securities were inaugurated.

Roosevelt cannot continue the Hoover Reconstruction Finance Corporation policy unless he can substitute some more effective measure to bring about a rise in commodity prices than the now languishing "controlled inflation." Nothing in the immediate outlook seems as certain as that. Either wholesale prices must rise or the face value and interest rates of outstanding debts, individual and corporate, agricultural and industrial, must be drastically cut. Only through such readjustment can debts be met as they come due and prices and costs based on fixed debt be lowered to conform with the general price level.

Debts must come down or prices must go up! That is the libretto for the opening act of the Roosevelt opera, entitled "The New Deal."

A New Policy for the R. F. C.

While Hoover tried to stabilize the debt situation with copious doses of Reconstruction Finance Corporation credit as he poured the Federal Reserve resources into the money market to force prices up, it is certain that Roosevelt will abandon this and embark on a policy of what we may call selective reorganization while he attempts to increase purchasing power with direct injections of unemployment relief. In other words, two trends will be established at once — a trend towards drastic debt adjustments and a trend towards direct financing of consumer purchasing power. Which of these trends will be determinative will be left for time and events to decide.

The first point of attack will be the banking structure. Events have assured this. The staff of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation claim to be acquainted with the shape of the assets of every bank in the nation. No estimate has been made, so far as the writer is aware, of how much of their total of $41,000,000,000 will have to be written off the books. Whatever this total may finally turn out to be, that such a write-down must take place and will take place is now clear.

The second point of attack is sure to be the railroads. There are more than eleven billions of railroad bonds outstanding in the United States. Nearly half of these are owned by savings banks and insurance companies — institutions which represent the interests of small investors. During its first year the Reconstruction Finance Corporation made 105 loans aggregating $340,000,000 to the railroads. Without the intervention of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation it is clear that there would have been numerous defaults on interest, taxes, and maturities.

In his railroad speech at Salt Lake City in September, Roosevelt announced that if President he would stand back of the roads for a

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specified period upon condition that the roads accept such "requirements as may in individual cases be found necessary to readjust top-heavy financial structures through appropriate scaling down of fixed charges." To facilitate such reorganization he proposed revision of the federal bankruptcy laws. In addition he favored regulation of motor trucks and consolidation of competing railroads where there was insufficient traffic to support all. He criticized the Hoover policy as a dole which left the "railroad and the bondholders uncertain as to whether each dole would not be the last."

Roosevelt, as far as the railroads are concerned, is obviously determined to change the Reconstruction Finance Corporation from a static into a dynamic institution. Extensions of federal credit, to protect investments, are to be conditioned upon reorganization to meet new conditions.

A third point of attack will be the farm mortgage situation. There are nine billions of these outstanding. Here it is the individual rather than the corporate debtor who is suffering. In his main campaign speech on the problem of agriculture, President Roosevelt promised a conversion of farm mortgages into securities drawing lower rates of interest, an extension of time for principal payments, and continued government credit to institutions holding farm mortgages, provided these institutions pass the benefit of the government credit on to the mortgagors through stopping foreclosure actions.

From the foregoing discussion it should be clear that Roosevelt plans to hold off economic sanctions with government credit only so long as he is satisfied that a fundamental readjustment in the burden of indebtedness will result. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is to be the big stick with which creditors will be forced to make a fair settlement with debtors.

May We Expect Inflation?

While preparations for debt readjustments are well under way as the new Administration takes office, the problem of raising commodity prices is far less settled. We have seen how the Hoover policy of "controlled inflation" failed because the banks would not loan on the basis of their excess reserves. It is a tradition in the United States that when prices fall monetary agitation commences. Though the Democratic platform declared definitely in favor of sound money "to be preserved at all hazards," many Democrats of influence favor various schemes of inflation. These schemes range from the remonetization of silver at an arbitrary ratio with gold, to the reduction of the gold content in the dollar.

President Roosevelt is well known to be conservative on money matters. He will, for a time, be inalterably opposed to any tampering with the monetary base or the federal credit. The bank holiday has forced him to desert the gold standard temporarily and to issue additional currency. This does not mean, however, that he will permanently forsake the gold standard or permit the federal credit to be destroyed in a whirl of uncontrolled price inflation. His inaugural promise of an "adequate but sound currency" means adequate to meet emergency, but sound at all costs.

The new President will favor an attempt to inject purchasing power into the economic system through federal unemployment relief expenditures and the more active use of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation's powers to finance self-liquidating public works. Unlike Hoover, who fought the use of federal funds for unemployment relief for months and finally only agreed to allowing the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to loan money to the state governments for this purpose, Roosevelt has said that whenever local and state authorities are unable to carry the burden, the Federal Government must step into the breach. Since election he has indicated his support of a measure providing five hundred million dollars for unemployment relief, to be distributed, not loaned, to the states.

Despite the fact that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation was authorized in July to loan up to $1,500,000,000 for self-liquidating public works projects, on February 15, 1933, only $155,000,000 had been promised and only $18,000,000 had been actually disbursed. The Hoover Administration has tied up these loans with red tape and high interest rates. Roosevelt has indicated that he will use these powers to greater effect on reforestation, land settlement, and slum clearance projects. He has already announced one such project for the Tennessee

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River Valley, where the Muscle Shoals Dam is located.

Whether such a judicious use of federal credit to finance consumer purchasing power will satisfy the members of Congress who favor more radical measures to bring about inflation is a nice question. It seems likely that the great power possessed by the new Administration through control of patronage will be sufficient to hold them in check for the first six months at least. However, if by autumn the Administration program, both domestic and foreign, has not commenced to produce results, it may be possible for Roosevelt to stem the inflationary tide with his veto. In times like these, however, it is unwise to make any predictions, folly to attempt to look ahead more than six months. Sufficient to note the rising tide of inflation. No one can foresee when or if it will turn to ebb.

It may be that the "domestic allotment" plan, if enacted in time, will counter the inflationary agitation. This measure is a direct attempt to transfer purchasing power from the industrial to the agricultural population. It is admittedly an experiment. It will probably become law very soon after President Roosevelt takes office and calls Congress in special session. By raising agricultural prices at the farm, it may quell the cry to print money.

Roosevelt's "Radical" Views

The foregoing are the more immediate aspects of "the new deal." Undoubtedly President Roosevelt will be chiefly concerned with these immediate aspects for two or three years. By that time the internal debt burden will either have been written down or wholesale prices will have risen. If one of these two things has not occurred peaceably, one or both will have occurred through violence. The patience of the country, of those who are suffering from debts and from lack of jobs, is exhausted. A solution is demanded.

However, while these urgent problems occupy the foreground at the moment and did so during the election campaign, there was an interesting undertone in Roosevelt's speeches which may in the long run prove more significant than his approach to the immediate tasks of the hour. This undertone, which on one occasion rose to a crescendo pitch, indicated that it was his profound conviction that government must assume a greater responsibility for the smooth functioning of the economic machinery. This would sound like a platitude if it were not such an innovation in American political theory.

"Laissez faire" has always been the dominant economic theory in American political life. Even Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, who were acutely aware of the faults of the American economic system, based their criticism on Adam Smith. They were both against the trusts. They both feared the power of monopolies. They both strove to preserve competition as the great regulator of industry. The critical attitude of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson disappeared in the twenties. The new capitalism rose to a pseudo-prestige under Coolidge and Hoover. It believed in high wages and common stocks. Laissez faire had reached its zenith.

Franklin Roosevelt is no believer in laissez-faire economics. The domestic allotment plan, already outlined, is a drastic attempt to tax one portion of the population for the benefit of another portion. His theory of international economic policy, discussed in the second part of this article, is also radically different from that of his predecessors at the White House. Above all we have his speech made at the Commonwealth Club at San Francisco, entitled "The Philosophy of Government." This address was intellectually the most significant of the election campaign. In it he stressed Jefferson's distinction between the individual rights of "personal competency" and those involved in acquiring and possessing property.

> The exercise of the property rights might so interfere with the rights of the individual that the government, without whose assistance the property rights could not exist, must intervene, not to destroy individualism but to protect it.

He then proceeded to make a thumb-nail sketch of the post-Civil War history of the development of American industry. He pointed out that those were the golden days of acquisitive individualism. The turn of the tide came with the new century, he concluded. We had reached our last frontier. Industrial combinations and monopolies had become powers within the State irresponsible and uncontrolled. The achievement of some measure of control in behalf of the State was the accom-

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plishment of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. The tendency towards concentration of industry, however, has not abated since their day. If the process continues at the same rate, by the end of this century we shall have all American industry controlled by a dozen corporations and perhaps a hundred men.

Roosevelt does not believe that it has yet been demonstrated that government must assume all the functions of economic regulation. He would give private industry one more chance. "There has been no final failure, because there has been no attempt." But he warns: "We must build toward the time when the major depression cannot occur again; and if this means sacrificing the easy profits of inflationist booms, then let them go; and good riddance."

The shadow of government regulation, economic planning, is surely here. As yet, it has issued in no concrete legislation and few concrete recommendations. But the idea pervades the plan for the reorganization of the banks, the railroad system, and the agricultural relief program. Above all, it will pervade the approach to American international economic policy, as we shall see in a moment.

Franklin Roosevelt believes in private property and the institutions which have been constructed on private property. But his is no worship of the system as is. His attitude indicates a real experiment in the next years to determine whether economic planning is possible under capitalism.

Foreign Policy

It must be admitted that any forecast as to the course of foreign policy under Roosevelt must necessarily be couched in the most general terms. During the election campaign, the attention of the country was directed almost exclusively to domestic affairs. The political aspects of American foreign policy were not discussed at all. Such discussion as took place was confined to the economic aspects — tariff, exports, and foreign loans.

However, despite the paucity of material upon which to base any estimate of the future, it is possible to construct a tentative background out of the salient features of the Roosevelt theory of government, a background which may be of value in the coming years in understanding the flow of events.

There will be no neo-Wilson revival. Although Roosevelt served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy under Wilson; although Colonel House, Carter Glass, and other figures closely identified with Woodrow Wilson, will be closely identified with the new Administration, there will be no attempt to set the clock back to 1920.

When, in a speech delivered to a group of New York farmers in January, 1932, Roosevelt, then a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, declared that there could no longer be any question of the United States joining the League of Nations, he was bitterly criticized in the East.

The criticism was justified. Undoubtedly the statement was made hurriedly, without sufficient reflection. Undoubtedly it was a momentary slip, due largely to the political temptations of the hour. However, had this incident not occurred, it is hardly to be expected that Roosevelt, candidate for the Presidency in 1932, could have stood for the League of Nations as Roosevelt, candidate for the Vice-Presidency, had done in 1920. In the years that have passed since Wilson, the League of Nations movement has not grown in the United States. The reason is that the development of the idea and the subsequent promulgation of the Kellogg Pact has provided the United States with a method of coöperating with the League in the maintenance of world peace which has been accepted by both major political parties, and by the more important peace groups in the country.

That Roosevelt had substituted the Kellogg Pact for the Covenant in his own mind was not known in the winter of 1932, however, and it was natural that the peace groups should mistake his words for those of an isolationist. It first became certain that this was not the case when the platform adopted by the Democratic Party at Chicago in June, written by Roosevelt supporters, said: "We advocate the Pact of Paris, abolishing war as an instrument of national policy, to be made effective by provisions for consultation and conference in case of threatened violation of treaties."

Roosevelt's strong support of this plank was clear when he issued his January statement supporting Secretary Stimson in his refusal to recognize Manchuria. Thus the peace policy to be pursued is definite, as the Roosevelt Ad-

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ministration enters upon its duties. It will be substantially the same as that pursued by Stimson, the only member of the Hoover Administration whose work has been praised in opposition circles.

The disarmament policy of the Hoover Administration will also be followed. We base this prediction on no other grounds than the probability that Mr. Norman H. Davis will continue to play a prominent part in its development. On the other hand, the new President will be more sympathetic to the French security thesis than was Mr. Hoover, who has never shown any understanding of the French point of view. It is likely that such increased appreciation of the French position will have concrete results in the implementation of the Kellogg Pact, as promised in the Democratic platform.

Foreign Trade

Apart from the probable recognition of Soviet Russia, little novelty is to be anticipated in the development of the political side of Roosevelt's foreign policy. No such lack of invention will characterize the commercial side, however. There is certain to be a sharp reversal of the Hoover régime in these matters.

Herbert Hoover originated post-war American commercial policy practically by himself, first as Secretary of Commerce and then as President. Though the tariff policies of the Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover Administrations were in the Republican tradition, the vigorous promotion of exports and loans to finance exports despite a creditor balance of payments represented a remarkable refusal to face the facts of the new post-war economic position, a refusal which can be largely traced to Mr. Hoover. During the election campaign, much was said on this score by the Democratic candidate and it will repay us to review briefly his utterances.

A first indication of his tariff program was given by Roosevelt in a radio address in April, 1932. He said:

> What we must do is this: To revise our tariff on the basis of a reciprocal exchange of goods, allowing other nations to buy and to pay for our goods by sending us such of their goods as will not seriously throw any of our industries out of balance, and incidentally making impossible in this country the continuance of pure monopolies which cause us to pay excessive prices for many of the necessities of life.

At Sioux City, Roosevelt said that he would favor separate legislation for each tariff schedule in order to prevent log-rolling in Congress. He also would urge the appointment of a public counsel to the Tariff Commission to represent the consumer's point of view at rate hearings.

Under Roosevelt, the Tariff Commission will tend to become an economic planning mechanism charged with the direction of the flow of imports. Its guiding principle will no longer be "cost of production," administered in such a way as to prohibit the importation of all merchandise which can be manufactured in the United States, given sufficient protection. Instead, the cost to the American consumer of protecting any industry will be weighed against the gain in wages paid to American labor by the benefiting industry. The spread of production costs within the industry will be examined to determine whether a cluster of marginal producers are being maintained as a result of an unduly high rate.

Hand in hand with a tariff policy dictated by the interests of the nation at large, will go a radically new attitude toward the active promotion of exports by the Department of Commerce. Since 1920, the Department of Commerce has grown enormously in size and scope. It now has representatives in fifty-three countries whose principal duties are to encourage American exports in the markets to which they are attached. These activities have been carried on with a total disregard of the policies of the Tariff Commission and Congress with reference to the acceptance in the United States of imports from these same countries. Thus exports have been stimulated as a matter of Commerce policy to any and all countries, whether it was our tariff policy to prevent these exports to be paid for with imports or not.

In a speech to business men during the campaign, Roosevelt said:

> I remind you that for romantic adventurings in foreign markets we expect and hope to substitute realistic study and actual *exchange* of goods. . . .
>
> More realistic mutual arrangements for trade, substituted for the present system in which each nation attempts to exploit the market of every other, giving nothing in return, will do more for the peace of the world and will contribute more to supplement the eventual reduction of armament burdens, than any other policy which could be devised. *And at the same time it will make possible the approach to a national*

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economic policy at home which will have as its central feature the fitting of production programs to the actual probabilities of consumption.

The italics are the writer's. The sentence clearly indicates the tie-up which exists in the new President's mind between planning the flow of foreign trade and planning in the domestic field. Laissez faire is no longer to be the rule in the foreign field any more than in the home market. Exports are to be controlled with regard to imports and imports with regard to the *concert* of domestic interests. The novelty of this policy will be clearer if it is pointed out that the *Manual of Instructions for Commercial Attachés*, issued by the Department of Commerce for the guidance of its foreign representatives, cautioned them against encouraging the importation of foreign merchandise. They were not to waste their time facilitating such transactions. Though the flow of American imports has always been regulated with respect to the effect upon the particular domestic interest concerned, it has never been regulated with regard to all the domestic interests involved — capital, labor, and consumer.

The third aspect of American foreign economic policy which is certain to be revised, is the foreign loan policy of the State Department. In 1922 this department established the custom of examining all prospective issues of foreign securities and of passing on the political desirability of such loans. Prior to the Presidential campaign, during the winter of 1932, the Senate Finance Committee conducted extensive hearings on the history of foreign loans made during the years since the war.

These hearings produced a remarkable collection of testimony as to the irresponsible practices of New York security-issuing houses during the boom years. At the conclusion of the investigation Senator Hiram Johnson presented the draft of a bill to establish a Foreign Loan Board to consist of the Secretary of the State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Governor of the Federal Reserve Board. This Board, should it be created, would have final authority over all foreign lending. Though President-elect Roosevelt has not openly favored the Johnson Bill, the promise of more adequate publicity on foreign loans made in the Democratic platform, several campaign utterances, and the fact that Hiram Johnson supported him, deserting the Republican Party to do so, suggests the possibility that the new Administration will espouse the principles of this bill. At Columbus Roosevelt promised that "it will no longer be possible for international bankers or others to sell to the investing public of America foreign securities on the *implied* understanding that these securities have been passed on or approved by the State Department or any other agency of the Federal Government."

This does not shut the door on federal approval, but only on a quasi-federal approval which is sufficient for the bond salesman to mislead his customer into believing that there has been a complete investigation and assumption of responsibility by the Federal Government, but which is absolutely lacking in any of the fundamentals of economic analysis.

A "new deal" in American foreign economic policy is therefore a major event to be anticipated over the coming years. How far it will be possible to control the flows of inward and outward bound merchandise, together with the flow of outward bound capital, will depend upon the success of President Roosevelt's efforts in battling the special interests involved — the protected industries, the exporting farmers and manufacturers, and the international bankers — in the interest of the nation as a whole. The theory which, it appears, will dictate policy will be that of a planned balance of payments. The substitution of this theory for the traditional practice of dealing with each manufacturer seeking protection, each exporter seeking government assistance in foreign markets, and each banker seeking to export capital, on the merits of each individual case will in itself be something of a revolution. The lack of correlation of the economic policies of the Tariff Commission and the State and Commerce Departments has been for the last twelve years a most remarkable phenomenon. It remains to be seen, given a recognition of the fact that exports, imports, and capital movements should all be considered simultaneously, whether it will be possible to bring about such a rational policy.

Next Month — An Important Article by John T. Flynn on the Danger of Branch Banking.

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Three Woodcuts

by TEN KLOOSTER

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Farming for Dear Life

by **GRENVILLE T. CHAPMAN**

In the February number of The Forum there was an article by Mr. Russell Lord on "Back to the Farm?" and his answer to his own question was "No." He said that there are too many farmers already, most of whom can't make expenses, much less a profit, and that when skillful farmers are not able to make a living it is no time for people who are inexperienced in farming to enter that calling. Many other people have written similar articles telling of the difficulties of the farmers and saying that this is not a time when city people can make a success at farming. They quote the many accounts of the forced sale of farms in all sections of the country to prove their case.

All that Mr. Lord and these other writers tell us is true, but they write about making a living by raising money crops, while I intend to say something about raising crops for consumption by the growers and their families.

If the times were normal I would agree with every word of Mr. Lord's article, but when 25 per cent of the people of the United States are reduced to asking charity, anything that will feed and shelter them, that will give them employment and hope, should be seized. I dare to disagree with Mr. Lord because I have had twenty years' experience as a dirt farmer, ten years on a Pennsylvania farm during my boyhood and youth and ten years on irrigated Arizona and New Mexico farms later in life, and I thoroughly understand the difference between raising crops to sell and raising them to feed oneself and one's family.

A farmer who raises money crops, in these days of very low prices for farm produce, must be very skillful at his calling and he must be able to produce large crops of first rate quality if he is to make money. For example, if a farmer raises apples for the market he must produce large and medium size apples of a few well-known varieties. The palate and the stomach find yellow apples to be as desirable as red ones, but the eye prefers apples of a deep red color and so in many markets yellow apples bring much lower prices than red ones, if they sell at all. A few districts in our Northwest produce the greater part of our first quality apples chiefly because of their appearance and color. Nearly all fruit sells on looks rather than on quality. Most of the products of our orchards must qualify as "extra fancy" to sell at a profit, but the slightly less good looking fruits are just as satisfying to the taste and are just as nourishing.

If a farmer makes potatoes his specialty, he must be able to produce as much as four hundred bushels to the acre and the bulk of them must be of the size and appearance demanded by consumers. If most of the crop consists of too large or too small, or badly shaped, potatoes, they won't sell at all, or they will sell at a loss to the grower. The same is true of nearly all farm products. People were satisfied, a few years ago, with fruits and vegetables of ordinary appearance, but they have been educated to expect something better in appearance, if not in quality.

When it comes to raising food for consumption by the farmer, however, that is a different matter. That does not take great skill. Almost anyone can plant, cultivate, and harvest crops of wheat and corn, vegetables and fruit, of sufficient size and quality to sustain himself and his family. It is easy to plant, care for, and harvest a crop of from fifty to one hundred bushels of potatoes on one acre of ground. That many potatoes are more than sufficient to feed

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an ordinary family for one year. It is a simple matter to plow a furrow, to cut up the potatoes and drop the pieces in the furrow, and to plow another furrow to cover the potatoes; it is a simple matter to hoe the potatoes and to destroy the potato bugs; it is another simple matter to plough up and harvest the potatoes. *Anyone* can do these things, whether or not he can read or write and whether or not he was brought up on a farm.

Almost anyone can raise a few chickens to supply a family with eggs, although it takes a most skillful poultryman to raise hens that will more than pay their keep. Any ordinary cow will supply a family with milk, and some butter, for home consumption, but few dairymen can raise cows that will make money for their owners at present milk prices.

Great numbers of American farmers live in reasonable comfort. They have enough to eat, and the sale of their surplus produce supplies their few other necessities. They own their farms clear of debt and nobody can fire them from their jobs. While it is probable that many of these farmers are not skillful enough to make a living by raising money crops, yet they have more than enough skill to sustain themselves, their families, and their livestock. Arkansas farmers are the butt of many jokes, but I have been on many of their farms and I never saw hungry or ill-clothed people there. Many of them raise a few sheep and a little cotton, in addition to food crops, and the women spin the wool and cotton and make the cloth with which they later make their clothes.

A Vermont farmer owns, let us say, one hundred and sixty acres, most of it being bleak wooded hillsides, with a good house and barn, orchard, sugar maples, etc. The market value of his farm is only around two thousand dollars, but there is no mortgage on it. His gross income is about one thousand dollars, but his labor bill and taxes will not run over three or four hundred dollars. His garden, cows, and chickens provide him with most of his food and his wood lot provides fuel for the cutting. He lives well, fears not the sheriff, and owes no man.

An Iowa farmer owns one hundred and sixty acres, with house and barn, but his farm *was* worth fifty to sixty thousand dollars and it is mortgaged for twenty thousand. He has a fine herd of cows and many fat hogs, and his gross income is around fifteen thousand dollars yearly, but he has a big labor bill, high taxes, and he has no orchard or sugar maples or wood lot. His net income used to be about three thousand dollars annually, but along come 1930–1931–1932 and he can't meet the interest or payments on his mortgage and the sheriff sells him out.

The self-sustaining Arkansas and New England farmers are not much worse off now than they were in ordinary times, while the formerly well-to-do Middle West farmers are hard hit.

Here undoubtedly some reader will say: "Yes, perhaps all that is true of experienced farmers, but the unemployed from the cities don't know how to farm and it would take them a long time to learn enough to support themselves by farming." I beg to differ.

Before the present big collective farms were started millions of Russian peasant farmers raised enough food on their little, poorly equipped farms to feed themselves and their large families and their livestock, beside which they paid a large part of their crops to their landlords as rent. These men knew little of modern farming methods and they did not raise large crops per acre, nor crops of especially high quality, but they supported themselves and the whole Russian Empire. Millions of poor Mexican and Chinese farmers support themselves in much the same way to-day. If people as ignorant as these can do it, surely our unemployed mechanics and miners, mill hands and office workers have more than enough intelligence to learn subsistence farming, and to learn it quickly.

If the government would help the unemployed (as many as would go) to buy little farms, preferably in our warm southern states, it would solve the problem of unemployment for those people and solve it permanently. Keep them in the cities looking for jobs that don't exist and it will be necessary to continue doling out money to them indefinitely. Stake them to a start at subsistence farming and you will be reducing starvation and unrest, bolstering up their self-respect, and putting them in a position where they can work themselves out of the necessity of living on charity. I am convinced that it would be worth whatever it costs as an investment in national safety, for it would be one of the surest means of warding off the revolution that is in store for us if matters do not improve.

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The War We Intend to Avoid

by **JAMES MERRIAM MOORE**

Since the Armistice, diplomacy has settled half a dozen disputes which, had they arisen before 1914, would probably have meant resort to arms. Locarno and Geneva show a definite will, if an uncertain way, to peace. Yet many of our spokesmen insist that the world is drifting toward another war.

If they would leave the matter at that, there would be little to rebut. Few soldiers feel qualified to argue on political trends. But when politicians and newswriters extend prophecy to clairvoyance; when they inform us in detail what this impending war will be like and how it will be waged — cities destroyed from the air, populations wiped out by gas — then soldiers are constrained to offer (at the risk of spoiling the fun for those who enjoy being horrified) some more reasonable forecast of the war which Christendom intends to avoid.

Will new and doleful weapons unexpectedly appear? Will new and surprising tactics rout the old? Will the battle front remain in one dimension, a horizontal line and a disputed barricade to screen our people from the enemy; or will that front change from a line to an area, above which aviation ranges between the vital, industrial regions of the belligerents, even across miles of sea?

Looking back on the years from 1914 to 1918 — to revert no further — we have answered the first query when we realize that all the military innovations of that period, tanks, planes, gas, were the direct products of industrial arts and the achievements of civilian scientists. Now in peace time the arts and sciences are decidedly matters of international concern, knowledge, and exchange. A few dye formulas may be kept trade secrets, but no device like caterpillar traction or the airplane. So the new weapons of 1940 are doubtless in our machine shops and laboratories to-day, playing their part in our economic life, and, although surprise may result from the ingenuity and speed with which they may be adapted to war, neither side will be entirely mystified.

But may we look for some new form of tactics; some new combination of men and weapons in maneuver? Tactics, stripped of technical language, are the things one can do in a fight. As two forces approach each other they mushroom out into parallel lines so as to bring the greatest number of weapons into action. And if the side that manages to strike first has the time, the acumen, and the control to do more than push ahead blindly, then, gathering all the troops that can be spared from the line, as football groups the backs, that side can still do only one of two things: hit a likely spot in the enemy's line, or go around end — "penetrate" or "envelop." These two maneuvers, with variations, exhaust the angles at which the hostile line may be struck. Is any new maneuver possible? Football has answered that question with the forward pass, which dissolves the linear formations, not by force but by creating a new situation in which lines are no longer useful or tenable. If battle tactics can provide anything analogous to the forward pass, it seems probable that it must be by the use of our newer weapons; airplanes, chemicals, and tanks.

The Effects of Air Fighting

To those of us who were unable to be present at the first battle of Jericho, the Hearst papers promise that aviation shall furnish a similar spectacle in the next war. Let us examine this promise, first by considering how aviation may influence the ground battle, and, finally, what it can do "alone in Cuby."

Napoleon was able to survey his entire

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battleground, either through his own eyes, or through the eyes of his gallopers. Then armies grew larger, and the increasing range of rifles and guns lengthened the distance which troops had to traverse in order to close with the enemy, so that a general could no longer see what was going on, but had to depend on hearing. Now, through the eyes of his air observers, a general may regain that visual contact with the situation which has long been lost. This renewed *width* of vision gives him more chance to influence his battle. It will restore to some degree the premium on generalship and lower that on hammer-and-tongs fighting. But this is not novelty; only a fresh turn in an old cycle.

The renewed *depth* of vision granted by aviation will give us trace of enemy reserves long before they can arrive on the front. Except in long periods of fog and rain, surprise may become a lost word on the battlefield. But surprise means more than the charge of unexpected troops. Fresh forces must be met by fresh opposing columns of our own. Both take days to move up. So, if one side can put its reënforcement in motion one day before the enemy can begin a counter move with equidistant reserves, that side will have gained surprise, even though each knows what the other is about. It will still be possible to "get there fustest with the mostest men."

So much for aviation's power of sight. It has also the power of shooting, and here again the novelty lies in the depth to which this fire may be extended. But there is nothing new in this extension itself. From David's day the range of missile weapons has steadily increased. The fact that planes *carry* their bombs to the target is only significant as a variation in trajectories we have known before. This exceeding range of fire-power will have its effects, but they will be the same effects, though magnified, that we have already felt from the increased range of ground artillery: to force earlier deployments and wider dispersions.

Drawings by Thomas Benrimo

For economy of time, road space, and control, troops moving up to battle retain the dense formations of the march until the last possible moment; heretofore, until they have come under fire. Then, to cut losses, they deploy into looser, more scattered formations, leaving the roads and advancing slowly and tiringly across fields and broken ground. Formerly, under artillery fire alone, this deployment took place a few miles behind the front. Now, under aviation, it may occur fifty or more, and troop trains and motor convoys must halt and discharge their passengers long before they come within sound of the guns. The slow, painful, tragic advance to the point where the bayonet comes into its own may be a matter of days instead of hours; the contact of armies may be delayed by days or even weeks, and the march to battle may be as hazardous and uncertain as the battle itself. Far greater burdens, far sharper a nervous strain, will be laid on the ground forces. The value of raw troops will fall, and only disciplined infantry will keep stamina for the final assault.

Not only will aviation delay, disperse, and harass moving troops; it will also attack the trains and convoys which carry munitions and food, and destroy the huge, unconcealed dumps of these supplies on which we depended in the last war. In the next war these dumps will have to be broken up and widely scattered. We cannot risk many eggs in one basket. This dispersion will directly affect the number of troops that can be placed on a given width of battle front. If munitions and their transport

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must be scattered over a wide area to prevent their destruction, or if supplies must be held so far to the rear as to reduce the amounts that can be forwarded in time for daily bread, then fewer men can be sustained on a given front. And as numbers diminish, then quality, the product of long training, may again become paramount. It would be rash to prophesy that the era of the nation-in-arms is over, yet certainly the trend is toward limited but highly trained forces to man the new weapons of a mechanized century.

Fallacies of Air Battles

Although ground soldiers will suffer earlier losses, and will be more widely scattered in the future, yet the extent to which delay is inflicted and dispersion enforced by aviation must depend on the number of planes that can be kept in the air, and spared for attacks on ground targets. This number will be infinitely smaller than many suppose; so much so that the results, although great, may not be revolutionary.

Nothing is more misleading than the idea that aviation is omnipresent; that it comes out of nowhere, like a swarm of locusts, and does not pause until everything in its path is destroyed. Say rather that it is like a swarm of bees, leaving the hive for one very definite mission and returning to that hive before undertaking another sortie — providing that, in its absence, someone has not kicked over the hive so that the swarm wanders away and is lost to its owner.

Four factors tend to prevent aviation from paying large *average* dividends on the number of planes in service. First, planes can carry only enough bombs or gas for one attack on one principal target at a time. When they have fired they must return to the airdrome to reload. They cannot simply go a-hunting. Second, pilots are seldom good for more than two missions a day. Thus planes are liable to spend about eighteen out of the twenty-four hours on the ground. Third, unless the hostile air force has been destroyed, many, and often for long periods all, missions must be spent in the air duel; in bombing enemy airdromes and planes sitting on those airdromes. Fourth, bombardment aviation must fly its missions in large groups, not only to give mutual fire support among the individual planes when the enemy pursuit attacks them in the air, but also because, in spite of improvements in bomb-sights, bombers obtain their hits on the shot-gun, not the rifle plan.

Assume that Cockaigne, invaded by Marsovia, sought to break down the Marsovian advance by cutting four bridges in their rear on which they depended for supplies and reënforcement. Wing Commander Ixe, with a group of fifty heavy bombers, is assigned the task. No opposition but anti-aircraft machine guns being reported, he decides to fly at a certain medium altitude at which the mean error of his bombs and the length of the bridges combine to give him an oval of certain size, which, drawn around each bridge, represents the area in which the bombs will fall. Applying the law of errors to this bomb pattern, he finally calculates that about one bomb in twelve may be expected to hit the bridge. Each plane will carry two half-ton bombs; the size suitable for the structure of these bridges. And he will need two hits per bridge. So he sends a formation of twelve planes against each one. The four missions succeed.

Three days later Marsovia manages to repair the bridges and posts anti-aircraft cannon around them, supported by serial patrols of pursuit aviation in the neighboring sky. Again calculating, Commander Ixe estimates he may now lose thirty per cent of his planes in repeating the job in the face of these defenses, but he will still need the same number of hits on each bridge. So now he must send eighteen, instead of twelve planes per bridge, and his whole force is sufficient to bomb only two of the bridges at a time, instead of four as previously.

Suppose that the situation repeated itself with the defenses so reënforced that he must fly higher, increasing the size of the bomb pattern and decreasing the ratio of expected hits. For this third attack his whole group might be necessary to knock out one bridge alone. Note the arithmetical progression. No. The air force, which seems to line the sky as it drums over our cities on maneuvers, will dwindle under the demands of war and in comparison with the innumerable targets in almost any theater of war; targets of which so few can be damaged beyond repair.

Passing now from aviation's effect on the ground battle, let us imagine what it could do and what it would be without armies and

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navies below. Contrary to the old cliché, military thought really changes very rapidly. But civilians are still repeating now and then the cry of a number of old fogies — the bright lads of only yesterday — who actually believed that armies and navies could be done away with by the nation having a great air force instead. The likelihood is that forty-eight hours after France, with an air force alone but no army, declared war on Germany, armed German motor groups could be sacking the last of the French airdromes, and perhaps looting the Bank of France for good measure. Once in the air, planes are the most flexible and mobile force of all, but, like any motorized troops, they are the most dependent on their bases, and these bases must be securely protected. In the days of sail, men-of-war could keep to the sea for a year, and even now cavalry can live off the country for long periods. But planes cannot live off the air.

As a corollary to their proposition that aviation would suffice without armies or navies, exponents of the Jericho-Joshua school of air thought have somehow managed to convey to our minds the idea that it would be nice to have a separate Air Force — that is, separate from the Army or the Navy. The question seems really a geographical one. England, France, and Italy each have a separate Air Ministry. In the United States aviation is divided between, and assigned directly to, the older services.

To argue in the abstract as to which is the better "organization" is like debating the old high school stand-by: which is pleasanter, winter or summer? If a nation's vital area is within range of enemy airdromes, then its Air Force, rather than its Army or Navy, will be its first line of defense, for planes, moving at 150 miles an hour, will meet before battleships or armies. This first line of defense must be as strong and united as possible. Hence a single, separate Air Force is indicated for nations geographically close to their possible foes. But if the ocean lies between, then the Navy becomes the first line of defense, and must have its own planes.

The main disability of aviation, acting alone, is that, although it may devastate an area, it cannot stay and hold that area. It must go home to its meals without leaving behind anything to interpose and protect its bases. But since the war several nations have been experimenting with the idea of carrying machine guns and their crews over the lines and dropping them by parachutes, well behind an imaginary enemy front, to establish and build up combat groups in the enemy's rear, which would subject his lines to reverse fire and gradually make them untenable: the forward pass applied to warfare.

These experiments have not been very satisfactory because the descending parachutes advertised what was going on, and because, floating down at the mercy of varying air currents, they did not land in likely spots and the groups were more or less scattered. The man who carried the barrel of the gun might come down in a field half a mile from the hill where his colleagues alighted with the tripod and the ammunition. It would be much better if the planes could *land* the gun crews. But the ordinary plane needs a large and fairly smooth field to land in.

Lately, however, the autogiro has appeared, landing and taking off in any small, rough clearing, and constantly developing in speed. Though perhaps visionary to-day, it is among the future possibilities that aviation may yet be able to surprise, capture, and *hold* critical localities behind the hostile lines, and so cause these lines to dissolve and fail as barriers.

Test-Tube Warfare

To most of us the words "chemical warfare" mean only one thing: poison gas. As a matter of fact, smoke may turn out to be far more important than gas in another war. But we have been naturally alarmed by the catch phrase that to-morrow's victory may lie in a single test tube. Sensational writers, jingoes, and pacifists, have all taught us to dread the imminent discovery of some new gas, deadly beyond imagining. Like Mr. Wardle's fat boy, they want to make our flesh creep. It pays. Abroad we read of several recent "maneuvers" in which the civil population was drilled in gas defense on the assumption that hostile aviation passed over their cities. These were staged when civilians were becoming a bit restive under large military budgets. Chalk it up to the credit of our Regular Army that it has never put on such a Medicine Show. Cassandra might have had more followers, though, if she had not stuck to the truth.

As for a new gas, chemists have already

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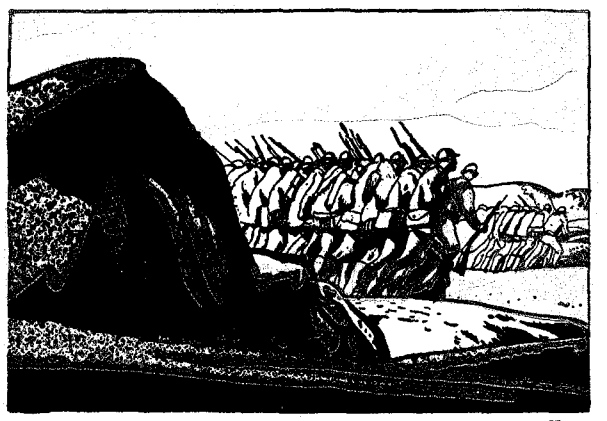
planned what they are going to discover. Mendelieff's Chart is complete. There remain infinite combinations, of course; some of which may be lethal in lighter concentrations than any we now know. But gas must be simple to make, available in quantity, stable, little affected by temperature or climate, and slow to dissipate after release. Above all, we must know the antidote. These requirements tend to restrict combinations to certain components, and these combinations have been pretty well tested already.

An illustrated magazine on my desk pictures a city drowned in gas dropped from planes. Naturally the illustrator could not show all of the city, but only a bit of one street. This is very apt. Only a part of the city would suffer. Even assuming that buildings did not restrict its spread, about thirty tons of gas are necessary to lay a lethal blanket over one square mile, with impact bombs. The strongest air power to-day could cover with its heavy bombers only an undefended area of about three square miles on a side. Also, if two countries were within bombing range of each other, retaliation would be possible. The only exception would be an over-sea belligerent, flying its missions from naval airplane carriers. But carriers are at a tremendous disadvantage. All the eggs are in one basket. Land-based aviation, finding its airdromes pitted by hostile bombs, can go to other fields until its own are repaired; but a successful attack on carrier-based aviation *sinks* the only airdrome it has, and sinks it permanently.



This ballyhoo about the discovery of a worse gas (granting the armchair strategist's assumption that there could be any "worse" than mustard or lewisite), and about the peril to non-combatants, has successfully distracted attention from two very important contributions of the chemical service to future war, both of which affect the soldier alone.

Gas, laid in wooded stretches and hollows along a defensive position, may allow parts of the line to be left lightly manned, permitting a smaller force to hold a wider front. In the past, castle walls have afforded defense, and trenches, prefaced by barbed wire. But always we have had to put many men behind them. Now, by virtue of newer walls, airy, impalpable, but noxious in themselves, these men may be largely released to other parts of the front before which gases will not lie. This is a new factor in defense.

For the attack, smoke, laid by planes or artillery just in front of the enemy's defensive line (*not* in front of our own line, where it would only focus the enemy's fire), can so blind the hostile riflemen and machine-gunners that our troops, advancing, would encounter only haphazard and unaimed bullets. With other coördinated smokes on the enemy's artillery observation posts, the entire burden of directing the defensive fires would fall suddenly on the planes and their radios which work with the artillery; a burden too great for them to carry effectively under present arrangements. Thus, until air-ground communication is greatly enlarged and improved, the attacking infantry may be able to move up unshaken masses to the point where the last rush with the bayonet begins; the frontal assault may regain that power of maneuver which it has been losing steadily since the days of Frederick the Great.

Tanks: Battleships on Land

Novelty is more arresting than reconstruction, and weapons which hint at the fabulous will always gain the wider interest and larger appropriations. So we like to class tanks with planes and gas as new weapons, and some indulge in loose talk of infantry being obsolete and cavalry an anachronism. There is nothing new about tanks. They are simply a combination of old means of maneuvering under fire.

We have had many names for soldiers: infantryman, cavalryman, artilleryman, aviator. But fundamentally there are just two kinds: the stickers, who close and fight hand to hand; and the shooters, who help the stickers to close.

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The stickers do quite a bit of shooting of their own to help themselves on the way, — but the shooters do no sticking. As the shooting of the defense made it more and more difficult for the attacking stickers to come to grips with them, the stickers developed three means of neutralizing that shooting, in addition to the support of their own shooters: armor, speed, and accompanying fire-power.

The significance of the cross-country tank or armored car is that, with its own tremendous shock (sticker) effect, it *combines* the three means of getting forward under fire. It has a bullet-proof armor, too heavy for a man to wear. It is faster than the horse. And it has weapons far heavier than its crew can carry.

Although tanks were present in the last war, their powers were not entirely appreciated in use or exploited in design. Since the war both tactics and types have been thoughtfully and coöperatively developed. In the next they may serve to bring about a new tactical situation. When foot troops or horsemen have broken through a hostile line, then the deeper they penetrate the more their flanks are in danger. The armor and fire-power of a group of tanks render their flanks less critical. Having punctured a line by their tremendous shock effect, their all-around self-protective ability may allow them to go quickly to critical points in rear of the line they have broken through, and there set up centers of resistance and fire which will make these hostile lines untenable to the enemy. Again the forward pass applied to warfare. But foot-soldiers, presenting poorer targets to the hostile artillery, will still be needed to come up and hold the ground the tanks have gained; and as long as there is terrain which tanks cannot cross, in such areas the infantry and cavalry will have to fight their battles alone as before.

War Still Depends on Men

Mechanically minded prophets and armchair strategists talk always of battle plans, but never of the plans for supplying food and munitions on which battles must be premised. They bow down before weapons with high rates of fire, for which we could seldom bring up enough ammunition, and concede victory to the side equipped with them. Campaigns are not won in machine shops or on chess boards.

To the indications that hostile aviation may force so great a dispersion of supply lines and stores that smaller forces will operate on a given front, some word must also be added of the increased anxiety which the present trend toward mechanization must cause our generals, entirely apart from what the enemy may be able to do to us. If we were simply replacing hay and oats with gasoline and oil, that would be all very well, but we must include with the latter huge quantities of spare parts and great, immobile repair depots. This is especially true in our aviation. The mechanical transport, which works smoothly under peace conditions, is prone to break under the unnatural strain of field service and without the close attendance of maintenance facilities, so normal to our civil system as to pass almost unnoticed.

In former wars the slow-moving animal transport bettered men's legs in power rather than speed. If it broke down, a substitute was available. With the vastly increasing distances of modern war, if our mechanical transport breaks or is broken, we have no means of bridging the gap.

The soldier fights two enemies, man and nature. Of the two, the latter is always the more formidable. By mechanical means, barriers have been erected to stave off nature, and to permit man to live and move easily and surely in peace. The civilian believes these barriers impregnable, because, in peace, civilization has virtually made them so. But the soldier knows that nature is never subdued; and that, in the end, his only certain defense against nature is the amount of food and shelter he can carry on his own back. Any other scheme of supply is uncertain, for the enemy will break down your complicated, mechanical barriers if he can. Napoleon's were broken by fire at Moscow. Germany's by blockade. Others may be broken by gas or bombs. That some methods are old and some new is not significant in the last analysis. As long as snow and rain fall, as long as sun parches and men suffer, history will repeat itself. Engineers, soothsayers, mechanized forces, enchanted armor, sorcery, science come and go. But the individual soldier, with the pack on his back and the weapon in his hand, striving against his enemy before and a reluctant cosmos behind, remains the first theorem of war.

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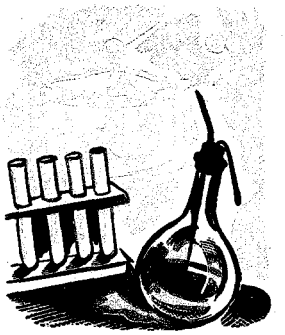
Disease Immunity to Order



by **H. MUNRO FOX**

IMMUNITY to disease by word of command: this is what some of the latest work from the Pasteur Institute in Paris promises us. This startling possibility is due to the researches of Dr. Metalnikov. We may, before long, see a battalion lined up on parade, and, at the sound of a bugle, the men will automatically become immunized to typhoid or cholera.

The problem of immunity is, of course, one of the most important in modern biology and medicine. Immunity, the defense of the body against infection, is among the most fundamental properties of living organisms. There is, first of all, an inborn immunity. Man cannot catch bovine plague or fowl cholera. Caterpillars are unhurt when inoculated with large doses of diphtheria or tetanus microbes: within two or three days the bacteria are eaten by the white blood corpuscles of the insects. Then, secondly, there is acquired immunity. One attack of measles makes us resistant to a further infection. And, since the pioneer work of Pasteur, we know how to make the body acquire immunity. Inoculation of disease microbes, rendered harmless by previous heating or other appropriate treatment, prepares us to resist subsequent attack of the virulent bugs. The inoculation causes the formation in our blood of chemical substances, the so-called antibodies, which, when the real enemy arrives either kill it directly or make it palatable for our white blood corpuscles to eat.

Immunity, whether inborn or acquired, is one of the instincts of preservation. The study of this faculty of animals and plants to resist the attacks of disease is a study of one of the most characteristic differences between the living and the non-living. Now, instincts of preservation involve the nervous system. Defense, be it by fighting, flight, or feigning death, is worked through the brain. Such actions of defense are reflex actions of the nervous system, whether conscious, or, as may be the case in most animals, unconscious. It was starting from this idea that Dr. Metalnikov put to himself the question: is not immunity to disease, which is one of the most basic methods of defense, also under the control of the brain?

The first experiments to test this theory were made with caterpillars. These animals have two great advantages for such studies. First, caterpillars can easily and very rapidly be immunized to diseases. For example, while these insects succumb at once to a large dose of inoculated cholera microbes, if small doses are given they become immune within twenty-four hours, and will then support, without turning a hair, doses much larger than would previously have been fatal to them. The second advantage of the caterpillars is that their brain is not all in one place as ours is: it is divided into a number of sub-brains. These are very close to the skin and lie as a chain connected by nerves along the under surface of

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the insect. One or other of these sub-brains can easily be destroyed with a hot needle without killing the caterpillar. Now, it turned out in the experiments that as regards the power of the insect to acquire immunity, no difference was made if any one of its sub-brains was destroyed, except only the fifth from the head end. But in the absence of this particular group of nerve cells immunization to cholera was no longer possible. This was the first proof that nerves are concerned in the defense of an animal against bacteria.

Having proved that in the case of insects the nervous system controls immunity to disease, Dr. Metalnikov next asked himself whether this was not also the case in vertebrate animals, including man himself. But here the problem was not so easy of attack as with the insects. True, innumerable experiments have been made with dogs, by destroying different parts of the brain to discover their functions. By this means, and by the study of diseases and accidents to parts of the human brain, the functions of its various regions have been mapped out. Nevertheless it would be a very long and difficult task to localize any portion of the brain controlling immunity, as had been done with the simpler insect brain. So another line was chosen.

It has been pointed out already that most defensive actions are automatic reflexes through the nervous system. A wild deer instantaneously flees from anything suddenly moving. The drowning man clutches at the smallest floating object. It is the brain which commands these actions. In recent years the whole subject of nerve reflexes has been put on a new footing by the researches of Professor Pavlov. This great advance in the scientific study of behavior is too well known to need restatement in detail here. Pavlov showed that if the stimulus causing a reflex is accompanied by some other stimulus, after a few repetitions the second stimulus alone brings forth the reflex action. A so-called conditioned reflex has been established. One's mouth waters when food is smelt. If food is offered daily to a dog and at the same time a bell is rung, after a time the sound of the bell alone causes saliva to be secreted. Researches on these lines have developed of recent years into a profound study of habit formation.

Dr. Metalnikov chose the technique of conditional reflexes to test the idea, made probable by his experiments with caterpillars, that the brain of mammals too controls the acquirement of immunity to disease. This was his method. Guinea pigs and rabbits were inoculated with disease microbes rendered harmless by heating, and at the same time the animals were tickled, their ears were scratched, or a horn was sounded close to them. They became immune to the disease in question in the ordinary way. After a time, again in the normal fashion, the immunity wore off. This means that if given virulent microbes, the guinea pigs could no longer resist them. But instead of actually inoculating the disease-causing bacilli, there is a simpler way of finding out if the animals are still immune or not. When immunity becomes established, two changes occur in the blood. Its content of white blood corpuscles increases, and it now contains antibodies. The first can be seen and counted in a drop of blood under the microscope. And the antibodies can be demonstrated by putting some blood in a test tube and adding disease microbes which will be destroyed.

After a time, then, the guinea pigs' immunity wore off. There were no longer any antibodies, or any excess of white corpuscles, in their blood. In the same way, if you have been inoculated for typhoid or cholera, after a year or two you must have other inoculations to remain immune. But now comes the very remarkable discovery. Instead of the guinea pigs being re-inoculated, their skin was simply scratched, or the horn was sounded. The result of this was that once again antibodies appeared in their blood and their white corpuscles became more numerous. They had been re-immunized by a conditioned reflex!

It is obvious that not only do these experiments, which have been independently confirmed by other research workers, prove the rôle of the brain in immunity, but they may be of enormous practical importance. Yet perhaps immunity at word of command is not so incredible as would appear at first sight. More and more are we coming to realize the part played by the brain in disease. Oedema of the arm, real burns, and abcesses have been called forth by verbal suggestion; and reflex vomiting, sleep, and changes in blood pressure have been provoked by using words as conditioned stimuli.

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The Future of Religion

by **PAUL HUTCHINSON**

I

WESTERN religion, I have tried to point out in three preceding articles, is entering on an ordeal more severe than any it has known for at least four hundred years. There was, to be sure, much the same sort of three-sided struggle in the period of Augustine and again in that of Luther. Then, as now, religion found itself involved in conflict with the state and with society, while it was at the same time wrestling with a widespread demand for restatement of its own dogma. The results were of major importance to history. But there is a scale to the contemporary drama that makes possible tragedy of a vaster and deeper kind than man has ever known.

Incalculable human devotion has gone into bringing Western religion to the point at which it now stands. Is that devotion to issue in futility? Is the end of the worship of the generations to be the ruin of deserted altars and, what is infinitely more tragic, a sense of man's loneliness amid his approach to extinction? It is much easier to attempt a report as to the position in which religion now finds itself than to prophesy as to what the answer may prove to be to such questions. Yet it is impossible to discover that this institution which holds so precious a deposit of human hopes stands at the beginning of such an ordeal, without attempting to assess the portents. Is this *only* an ordeal, to issue in some brighter destiny? Or is it the approach of dissolution?

Let it be said at once that any judgment as to the outlook for religion will depend on one's conception of the nature and significance of the present day. To those who believe that what is going on now is no more than a surface disturbance, an indication of an unrest that can be alleviated and satisfied by a reform program held within the limits of the present social order, the prospect for religion will be of one sort. To those who believe that the West is moving into a basic change of civilization — such a change, for example, as came with the disappearance of feudalism — the prospect for religion will be of an entirely different sort. It therefore becomes necessary for me to drop the reporter's anonymity and to inject a personal element which, however presumptuous, is required to make clear the view of modern life which underlies my expectations as to the future.

Here, then, is my credo: I believe that we are living in a day which sees the final destruction of the illusion of inevitable progress which Herbert Spencer and the Victorian evolutionists fastened upon the pre-war liberalism of the West. Even in America, where adventitious aids made a cloudless optimism seem reasonable as long after the World War as the campaign speeches of Mr. Hoover in 1928, man now finds himself confronting the possibility of chaos quite as much as of triumph, and discovering that catastrophe is much closer than either a dependable peace or a just, and therefore stable, world order.

Accordingly, I believe that we have come to one of the great turning-points in man's story, at which there will emerge either genuine and successful social revolution, or such a frustration of the aspirations and demands of the masses, with consequent despair, as will thrust the West into another dark age. Thus the terrific task of Western religion, as I see it, becomes that of maintaining for man direction and meaning in his life, not only against the encompassing chaos of an unfathomed and affrighting universe, but even more against the overwhelming confusion of an immediate social situation in which all the instruments of social organization, including those of religion itself, are under attack and in prospect of vital change.

II

WHAT, then, may one reasonably expect the experience of those within the religious

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institution to be as the conflict and confusion of this developing world revolution increase?

As to the greater number of churches and churchmen it is my belief that there will ensue a retreat into the institution, a refusal to acknowledge the fact of the revolution — or, to put it perhaps more accurately, of the revolution's validity — and an intensification of devotion to historic formulas of worship that will persist for as long as the present social order itself persists. This is a prospect disliked, and indeed denied, with equal vehemence by social and religious radicals. The characteristic prophecy of both groups is that "if the church does not" declare itself a partisan of whatever forms of revolution the radicals favor, "it will die." If this prophecy has in view a future in terms of a number of centuries, and if it concerns only the "regular" forms of church communities, it may turn out to be true. One would be a fool who would attempt to say what may or may not happen to *any* social agency in the course of another half-millenium. At that, I confess my skepticism. In the eyes of the radical, the church has been marked for destruction for a long time, and it is still here.

But it is the immediate future that concerns us. And the great tragedy that will probably befall Western religion in the near future will come out of the attempt of most of its professors to maintain their churchly practices as if society remained what it was during the Victorian era. An attempt by organized religion in the West to make itself the spiritual voice of a new order of society might fail, but it would at least give the next years of life within the churches an heroic quality commensurate with their pretensions. What is likely to happen, however, is that those who have reason to fear for their personal fortunes during a period of vital change, will insist on making their churches and congregations the last citadel of their allegiance to the past. The chimes above their cathedrals will, to the end, ring out the defiance of Samuel Hoffenstein's memorable couplet:

> Come weal, come woe,
> My status is quo.

Not much needs to be said concerning the outlook for this sort of religion except to recognize that, statistically speaking, it is likely to be a more numerous part of the total Western scene than any other recognizable group in the field of religion. As such, it will function as another obstruction in the path of the cohorts of change, and so as another symbol against which they will seek to rally revolutionary passion. Everything that has happened since the pre-war world began to collapse points to this probability. Consider the Russian church committing suicide rather than admit the social legitimacy of bolshevism. Or, in the case of a revolution that for the time being has swung toward the right, consider the decision of the Italian church in favor of accommodation with the secularism of Mussolini. Or the obsession of Prussian Protestantism with the hope of a Hohenzollern restoration.

Just so, when social change in vital proportions penetrates American communities, it will find the privileged classes who have formed most of the urban church constituency and the rural faithful whose education has not been sufficient to make what is going on intelligible to them, alike looking to their churches to provide a haven of refuge and defiance. And there is no reason to expect the disappearance of such religious groups until the transformation of the social order liquidates the classes who form them. That is a prospect, in America, still a long way off.

III

But let us get on to other groups, since the one of which we have been speaking has no importance beyond its size and no fate beyond a passive and uncomprehending acceptance of whatever the progress of events in other fields may mete out. From this point on let us consider the future of those portions of Western religion that *are* aware of the current that is running toward social change, and that are concerned to see that the religious institution shall make whatever changes are required to keep itself a vital force.

At the present moment such groups are tormented by a sense of inadequacy. This is the most encouraging fact concerning them. For as churches grow increasingly aware that the problems of conduct and faith which the emerging order is casting up to rack men's minds are too difficult for solution in terms of the religion of the pre-war world, they become accordingly aware of the necessity for religious change. Some of them thus become reconciled to change; a few go out to seek it.

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However much the reader may disagree with me at every other point, I believe that if he has any considerable knowledge of conditions within the churches, he will agree that this sense of inadequacy is already widely spread, and is growing. The study of *Recent Social Trends* just completed by the President's Research Committee employs the most imposing body of statistical data yet compiled to prove that, in the United States, while our recent boom years witnessed a substantial increase in the financial strength of the religious institution, they also witnessed a substantial loss of authority by religious ideas over the more intelligent portion of the public. Alert church leadership had become aware of this some time ago.

It is this sense of inadequacy which is producing the consciousness of tension with which the previous articles in this series have had to deal. Aware that his religion is neither giving him peace of mind in the midst of growing chaos nor showing promise of an ability to cope with and resolve the chaos itself, Western man, looking about to discover the reason, finds such elements of ordeal as we have been considering. His religion — whether formally labeled Christianity or Judaism or by any other name having importance in the West — claims to require him to conduct himself in accordance with ethical insights that involve it, and him, in growing tension at numberless points with the state, with the environing society, and with the intellectual outlook of these days.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of this sense of tension. In terms of the total number of those who regard themselves as religious people, only a handful have as yet come under its discipline. But the number is growing, and with every man to whom the experience comes it brings a crisis out of which his religion will emerge with its sense of direction radically altered. It is these changes in direction with which we are concerned. Before what crossroads does the religious man who is convinced of the necessity for a new direction stand irresolute?

First and most certainly, he ponders the path of a new insistence on the mystical, the "spiritual," as the sole concern of religion. The preaching of the "social gospel," heard so loudly a few years ago, is derided as a perversion of religion's task, and the church is held to be an agency which is to snatch the spirits of men away from the brutalities of life and preserve them inviolate in a mystical community which is altogether apart from the savage actualities of the bread-and-butter world.

This tendency — and it is at this moment the most prevalent tendency in the most aroused portions of the Western religious community — comes as a direct consequence of the awakening to the impossible position in which religion finds itself with reference to the social order. The realistic modern, who is also trying to hold on to religion, has in these post-war years taken a penetrating look at the nature of the social order, and has concluded that the idea of organizing this order according to the ethics of the so-called social gospel is a delusive dream. The religious leader who has been calling for the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth has been calling for something which never will be because it never can be.

Here is the reason for the swift growth of Barthianism, a theological system at which we must look with some care because it gives an indication not only of the way in which Western religion *may* react to its present ordeal but of the way in which it already actually *is* reacting. The history of Barthianism is an epitome of the experience of Western religion in the post-war world. Karl Barth and his original disciples are central Europeans whose youthful social radicalism became completely disillusioned during the war and after. Some of them retain a measure of social radicalism to this day, but they have utterly divorced their religious devotion from their social and political interests. Religion has become for them a thing to be apprehended and adored in man's inner soul, where the accommodations and even the ruthlessness which must accompany effective action in the field of mundane affairs should never penetrate.

The importance of the Barthians lies in their rejection of the notion of man's innate goodness and of the consequent inevitable development of his society into an order of complete righteousness, such as the liberal churches, with their confidence in the efficacy of suasion and education, have been promising. The Barthians look at religion's environing society and pronounce it evil — too evil to be saved. They look at the spiritual condition of man and pronounce him damned by his own pride. They find

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salvation for man when he sees his own wickedness, his own worthlessness, his own helplessness, and throws himself on the mercy of a God who is completely removed from this sordid and sin-diseased order.

There are three things which, for our present purpose, need to be pointed out concerning the Barthian theology. First, it fits the current mood. It is a theology that can be preached with fervor to the disillusioned and defeated men and women of our dismayed world. Its phrases are hauntingly reminiscent of old-time revivals, and so attract. In the second place, accordingly, it is rapidly gathering power. In Europe it is already the ascendant school of thought in Protestantism, and it is being given very respectful attention in Catholic circles. It is just gaining a foothold in this country, but it is winning adherents every day. It is likely, I think, to prove the agent that will give the final *coup de grace* to the evolutionary liberalism which has marked the advanced portion of American Protestantism. Finally, and most important fact of all, it surrenders the whole idea of making society, with its various institutions, over according to a pattern supplied by religion.

It is the last characteristic of Barthianism which will in the end disclose its inadequacy. A religion which uncovers the devilish nature of the social order may become an integral and important part of the developing revolution. But a religion which concludes that the social order is too evil to be saved, and that all that is possible is the snatching of the souls of men out of the environing evil to some inner haven of mystic rest, reduces moral striving at last to futility. For as soon as it declares that man's salvation lies completely outside the field of social responsibility, it allows man to conclude that his redemption is in no sense involved with the issue as to whether the relations between man and man are getting any better. When, therefore, the agony and anger of the underdog produces revolt, the forces of revolution will find a Barthianesque religion holding, as religion, a neutral position.

Bitter is the fate of a neutral in a revolutionary world.

IV

I HAVE written thus at length concerning Barthianism because of the real religious insight which it contains, and because it is typical of one reaction to the tension in which Western religion is finding itself. It penetrates the shallowness of the optimism which liberal religion has exhibited; it despairs at the practical impossibility of bringing society into accord with the highest spiritual insights, and it seeks to escape from the ordeal thus created by snatching its converts up into a stratum of rarified mysticism.

The same tendency operates in Buchmanism, the form of revivalism which is having such a vogue as this is written. There can be no question as to the value which Buchmanism has in forcing persons in modern society to view themselves without illusion. But Buchmanism is infinitely more shallow than Barthianism because it continues to view society itself with complacency. Its converts may experience a mystical satisfaction which resolves for them all sense of tension in modern life. But the longer one listens to the self-satisfaction in their "sharing" (testimonies, in the vocabulary of Moody and Sankey) and so discovers their lack of perception of society's tragic hour, the more one is driven to believe that when social upheaval reaches them it will find the Buchmanites quite as unprepared, intellectually and spiritually, as the most illiterate fundamentalist exhorter in backwoods chapels.

Far more importance attaches to the strategy by which such parts of the Western religious community as Roman and Anglo-Catholicism are seeking to escape from the current dilemma. Both these bodies are permeated with an appreciation of the inequities and consequent instabilities of our present society. The Roman Catholic Church is as deeply concerned over the social outlook as any modern institution; on this point its record is more realistic

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than that of most of Protestantism. Likewise Anglo-Catholicism, in which an extreme left wing is now developing which openly avows its readiness to join in a Communist revolution. But again, both these communions seek to resolve the *religious* dilemma of their adherents by lifting the religious issue completely over into the field of sacramentalism (or rather it should be said, in fairness to them, by insisting that it has always been there and must remain there) and leaving the field of social reformation to the operation of that "rough justice" of Thomas Aquinas, which may draw the religious man into the cause of change, but which equally may not.

Summed up, therefore, it seems to me that the outlook for a great portion of the Western religious community, after it has become aware of its inadequacy and the tension between its past pretensions and the actualities of society, is a withdrawal into various forms of mysticism. And many do advise the contemporary man of religion to escape into some haven of mystic devotion from whence, after the storm has passed, he may come forth with his symbols intact.

The fallacy in such advice, however, lies in the nature of the central symbol in Western religion. It is impossible, in a day when society itself must wrestle with the challenge of death, for religion to maintain the validity of its Cross unless it sets up that symbol in the heart of the social conflict. In an hour of world revolution, crucifixion is not to be hidden apart as a mystic rite for a separated few; then it becomes a common experience for all men.

V

And that brings into the focus of our sight that very small part of the Western religious community which, as the tide of social revolution rises, will proclaim a religion which is part and parcel of the revolution. Men of this sort may — and in most cases will — pull away entirely from the organized religious community. Unwelcome in the congregations of the comfortably privileged, and oppressed with a sense of the hindering conservatism of the religious institution, most of these men will seek a freer air and a greater power entirely outside the church world. But that does not mean that they will lose their passion to infuse the social crisis with spiritual meaning.

Look around in the confusion of the current American scene and ask where the leadership is to come from for the change through which our society must pass. At the moment one must conclude that no adequate leadership has as yet appeared. Despite our confusion and tension there is no sign, either in organized labor, in politics, or in the various liberal and radical organizations, of any leadership that can command much of a following. But one does find the forerunners of such leadership in men of varied sorts. Such men, for instance, as Norman Thomas, with his belief that society may be made over by democratic political processes, or A. J. Muste, who turns in the direction of an educational crusade among the workers, or Scott Nearing, who seeks to point the way toward direct action. I take these three names as types only — but it is of interest to remember that two of them have come directly out of the church and that even the other, quick as he would be to reject any implication of relation with religion, discloses a sense of a moral imperative which reveals that, if the sort of Communist revolution which he advocates should transpire, there would be in it for him a recognition of moral and ethical adjustment to the world order which would guarantee a religious revival in his post-revolutionary society.

But it grows clearer all the time that there is still another minority which means to stay within the avowed religious community and to insist that the revolution be welcomed there. How many churches or congregations there will be in which these men will be permitted to labor it is impossible to forecast. Probably not many. But the less encumbered such men are with looking after the preservation of institutions, the more effective they may prove in giving expression to their insights. The *form* of religious fellowship which such men are able to preserve through the approaching storm may be exceedingly primitive, but the *fact* of that fellowship will insure the survival of the church.

An enlightening illustration of the temper of this minority that means to ride out the storm inside the church may be found in the person of Reinhold Niebuhr. Dr. Niebuhr is a professor (of *applied* Christianity, be it noted) in Union Theological Seminary of New York, and is today probably the most sought after spokesman of religion at the student centers of the East and Middle West. At the moment he is being

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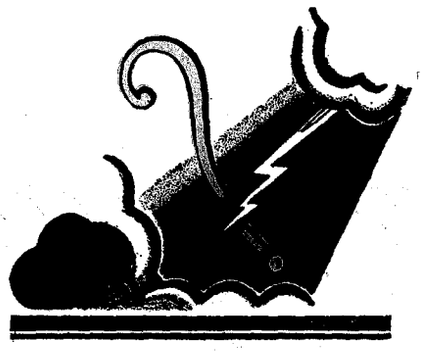
looked on with apprehension by many of the liberal clergy because his latest book, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*, betrays what they regard as a readiness to sanction a resort to violence in the pursuit of social justice, or at any rate to countenance departures from what they hold to be the orthodox religious ethic of love.

The fact is that Dr. Niebuhr, viewing society realistically, sees that it is based on coercion. Reading history, he finds that privileged groups never give up their power except when compelled to do so. His present major interest, therefore, lies in forcing the religious community to recognize the hypocrisy in which it becomes involved when it passes adverse ethical judgment on any resort to coercion by the underdog while it accepts without effective protest the coercion which the topdog — in almost every case a "good churchman" — habitually employs.



Dr. Niebuhr is concerned with an attempt to save the future of religion by enlisting religion *now* on the side of the reorganization of society, for when the battle really gets under way it will be too late. (Perhaps it is too late already.) Then the pressure of the situation will, Niebuhr thinks, force religion in on the side of reaction, and reaction's fate will attend it. Niebuhr is too much of a realist to believe that the reorganization of society, when it comes, will bring Utopia. He is as sure as Barth that the Kingdom of God will never be fully established in history. But if society is reorganized with some feeling after eternal — and unattainable — standards of righteousness, then he believes that it will be possible for religion not only to persist but to render its personal mystic services to the souls of men with a degree of persuasiveness never before attained.

The attention which is being given to Niebuhr seems to me important just now when the weakness of the older religious liberalism is becoming so apparent. For he indicates the coming of a revolutionary religious minority with genuine fighting power. He is under no illusions as to the size of the task involved in changing the social order. But he will not therefore shirk it. He is determined to show his skeptical comrades that religion has its part in the waging of revolution as well as in the building of the new order which comes after the old has been overthrown.

VI

Almost nothing has been said in all this as to the outlook in the ordeal which confronts Western religion's dogma. What will happen in respect to those basic affirmations on which the structure of Western religion has stood? How can belief in God weather the contemporary attack? How can the religious primacy of Jesus be maintained? Can the religious symbolism of the past satisfy the insights which humanity will gain during the years of "great tribulation" which lie just ahead?

Frankly, I am not able to answer these questions except in terms of my own faith, and I will not intrude it here. Let me say simply this: If I sense the mood of contemporary life at all, the tide of belief in a "naturalistic" basis for the universe is ebbing even faster than it rose. A new supernaturalism is emerging. I greatly doubt whether any theistic argument now on the intellectual horizon will fully satisfy the examination of modern man. But I believe that, as our environing social chaos increases, man will persist in seeking behind it for a spiritual order. In this quest I expect him to find more rather than less meaning in the faith of Jesus. For there is no religious symbolism — or mythology, if you will — quite so perfectly adapted to the tragic experiences of a revolutionary period as that of a faith which involves death that it may issue in triumph.

The Cross, it should be remembered, was originally a sign of a feared revolution. It was set up by the state at the demand of an endangered society that was the creature of a dogmatic religious orthodoxy. The return of another great revolutionary period to mankind, therefore, far from bringing about the final disappearance of this symbol, as many seem to expect, may prove the one thing needed to wrest it from the conventional impotence of centuries and to restore it once again to living meaning.

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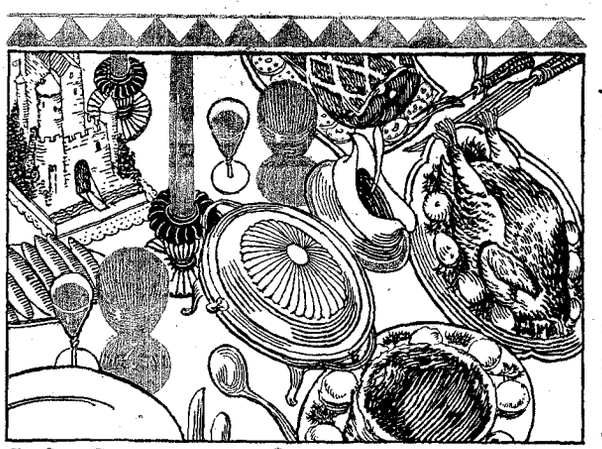
Farewell to Good Eating

by **FAITH MARIS**

EATING as a fine art, as well as the less defensible practice of eating for the sake of eating, is becoming more and more uncommon in Europe. In America, during the dieting decade just ended, we have become accustomed to eating fads of many kinds, but we had thought of Europe as jogging along the same old gastronomic paths — France with its subtle and elaborately simple food, served in leisurely, exquisite fashion, Germany with its rich, substantial dishes, and the lesser nations enjoying their own particular fleshpots. The old traditions of cooking and eating are, however, crumbling. The diminished quantity of food ordered in European restaurants, the decreased time spent at table, are two of the first changes to strike the visitor from overseas. Everywhere, those sections of the population which can afford to eat well are eating more sparingly.



The Groaning Board

Drawings by I. Doskow

In France, stronghold of the cult of the table, the change is especially marked. The dinner hour is no longer sacred, and the two-hour luncheon period for working people has been shortened to one. Such signs as "*petit repas*" and "*repas sur la pouce*" in restaurants and cafés attract not only foreigners who are accustomed to dispatching meals with celerity, but also the French who, hitherto, have veiled the function of eating with a certain formality. The great number of casual eating places indicate that the Frenchman is succumbing to the snack meal, the bite picked up in a hurry between other and more important engagements. They suggest also — these crowded cafés, *bistrots*, *brasseries*, and *crémeries* — that the working man and woman are not going home at noon to share the family repast. True, they do not eat standing, as many New Yorkers do; they have a two- or three-course meal and take a good half-hour over it; but for France this is speed and simplicity. In Berlin automats have been introduced to hasten the eating process, and cafeterias are common. Those pleasant oases in the working day, the "second breakfast" and the afternoon *jause*, are to-day being omitted in Germany and Austria.

Many factors have been at work to bring about this new casualness toward food in countries where it has always been a major interest. Scarcity, first of all. During the lean years of the war, frugality and abstemiousness were obligatory in France and Germany. The habits acquired then seem to have carried over into times of greater plenty, and have now become fixed. It is altogether likely that people have discovered they were better off with less food. Statisticians are to-day informing us that the two or three years of deprivation in the United States have improved the national health.

However true this may be, we do know that the cold hand of scarcity has stretched out over the world's dining table, removing this or that delicacy and superfluous course. For many years, too, the chill hand of chemistry has been at work. Nutritional experts and doctors have been declaring for nearly a generation that most people are overfed. American women were, I believe, the first to take these announcements seriously. With the advent of the

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bathroom scales and a score of different dieting régimes, they began to study their diet in relation to weight, girth, and health. They learned that fatness was not inevitable, that weight could be chemically controlled. They scented carbohydrates from afar, they became vitamin-wise and calcium-conscious. With characteristic enthusiasm, they acted on their new knowledge, with results that the world is familiar with. Their appearance of youth and vitality is admired all over Europe, and since they talk and travel, their secrets have become public.

To-day European women are also adopting régimes of one sort or another — the milk diet, the fruit diet, the raw food, the vegetable-bouillon. And old ones, such as the two weeks' autumn grape "cure," and the Provençal garlic "cure" (a garlic a day keeps the doctor away), have been revived. The Frenchwoman has always been concerned about trimness of line, and to-day she is more eager than ever to conserve her youthful grace. But to dieting, as to everything else, she brings a saving sanity and balance. She diets, not religiously to mortify the flesh, but on the contrary, to add enjoyment to those formal dinners when all dieting rules are cast aside.

While Europeans have never been faddists about food, in the American sense, "cures" have always been popular. It is recognized that one must pay the penalty for overindulgence. In the halcyon pre-war days, the mature members of well-to-do European families counted on spending a month out of every year at a watering-place. The liverish went to Vichy, the obese to Evian and Brides-les-Bains, those with hardening of the arteries to Vittel. At these spas, and at those of Germany as well, the digestive tract was reconditioned by diet, baths, massage, and copious water-drinking for another eleven months of *gourmandise*. People are still going to watering-places, it is true, but in lesser numbers. One reason is, no doubt, that the bottled waters are everywhere so cheap and so easily available. Fewer families can afford the time and money spent at spas. They have learned, moreover, that a cure can be taken at home, that a little restraint practiced through the year — skipping an occasional meal, or a fast now and then — saves them, in the end, a large doctor's and sanatorium fee.

The New Spartanism

Then, too, the newest generation of Europeans finds its fun in the pursuit of active sports and insists on going places where there is swimming, tennis, golf, mountain-climbing, dancing, and night-life — or some combination of these. The spas, to hold their own, have been compelled to introduce new amusements. The parents of this rising generation have been dragged from their mud or vapor baths, from their desultory gambling, from their chat of symptoms and systems, to the beaches, the tennis courts, and cabarets. If they do not participate in the violent pastimes of their children, they are at least exposed to the cult of "*le sport*" now being ardently embraced by south Europeans, and to the simple, strenuous living which it connotes.

In the cult of sport, of physical perfection, we find another reason why the people of the Continent are eating less. Even before the trim, athletic figure of the American girl, and, even more well-known, that of the Hollywood star and her Apollo-like hero had begun to dominate the international scene, the youth of Germany were beginning to strive for a new ideal of bodily perfection. In Germany, where in the past nature has been allowed to take her comfortable course and where plumpness has been more or less concomitant with maturity, the reaction to old habits of life has been most marked. Here diet and health cults grow in variety and popularity every year.

Immediately after the war the German Youth Movement began its vigorous attack on fat and sloth of mind and body. The members ate the simplest food, refused tobacco and all forms of alcohol, and lived as much as possible in the open. To-day the *Wandervögel* are grown up, but they probably still form the backbone of resistance against bourgeois living and

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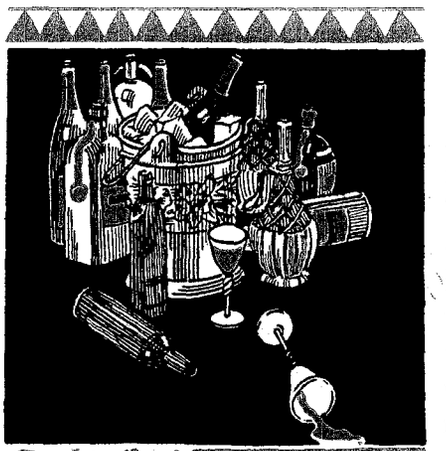
particularly against bourgeois cooking. More recently the nudists and other health cults have been denouncing the old-style German fare, with its dumplings, gravies, noodles, and pastries. The passionate fervor of these apostles of natural living is by way of making over the national cuisine, and the heavy cooking which we have associated with Germany may soon be but a memory, practiced only in the remote corners of the hinterland.

Economic factors have, of course, been fully as important as the idealistic and æsthetic yearnings of young Germany in effecting this transformation. The German woman, participating fully in the civic and industrial life of her country to-day, has very little time to spend in the kitchen, and the simplification of cooking processes has been inevitable. She uses canned foods increasingly, and has constant recourse to the little cooked-food shop and the delicatessen store. Naturally she has come to care less about this part of her home function, once such an all-absorbing interest. Now her only concern — and a very real one this — is that her family should be adequately nourished.



Cocktails &

While in Germany the new food habits and new food philosophies have been adopted by groups in all classes of society, and especially those whose work is sedentary, in Italy slimness is still a distinction of the aristocracy. The upper classes have always had resources which enabled them to escape from the inevitable *pasta* and olive oil, the *sine qua non* of the cooking of the masses. These two basic foods, cheap and wholesome, continue to give the Italian peasantry that sleekness and robustness which painters find so delightful, and which Il Duce also looks upon with official favor. Italian women of the working classes haven't yet been made to feel the odium of superfluous pounds; nor, it seems, have they felt the economic necessity of eating less. Mussolini loses no opportunity to praise the maternal style in feminine figures, and to denounce reducing diets, along with birth control and all the arts of the toilette table. So in Italy, save in *mondaine* and cosmopolitan circles, there is no noticeable change in eating habits.

Although European women of these classes have nowhere carried their avoidance of carbohydrates to the extremes of those Hollywood actresses whose contracts become null and void if they take on a pound or two of flesh, they evince a new desire for fitness and shapeliness. Breakfast of fruit juice, hard toast, and black coffee or weak tea, the salad lunch, dinner consisting of clear soup, fish or a chop, green vegetables, cheese and fruit — such ascetic régimes as this are symptomatic of the trend which is spreading from the cosmopolitan down to the more bourgeois levels of society.

Strangely enough, the American cocktail has played its part as a reducing agency. The cocktail was venomously denounced when it was first introduced in Europe. Later, when it was discovered that this hydra-headed monster, unlike the mild European apéritif, could completely banish a normal appetite for food, a good many women began to favor it. One princess of a reigning house, in an effort to reduce, almost completely ruined her health by drinking a cocktail or two whenever she felt hungry. She had to spend a year in a sanatorium to recover. The diatribes of all European doctors who have studied the effect of gin and fruit juice on the system, and such experiments as the above, have made the cocktail again fall into obloquy. It is now regarded as just another American barbarism.

If European women, following in the footsteps of their American sisters, are denying themselves the pleasures of the table because of a new vision of youth, health, and beauty, what about men? Has man's ancient prerogative of eating what he likes, cooked the way he likes it, weakened? It would seem so. Apparently he too is revising his eating habits. From observation and report over a wide area, European men and also foreign visitors are eating less meat, less bread, fewer rich desserts and pastries. They drink beer or order a single wine, and often drink the latter watered. While not so Spartan as their wives, they are untempted by elaborate "made" dishes and seem content, as most discriminating eaters have been from

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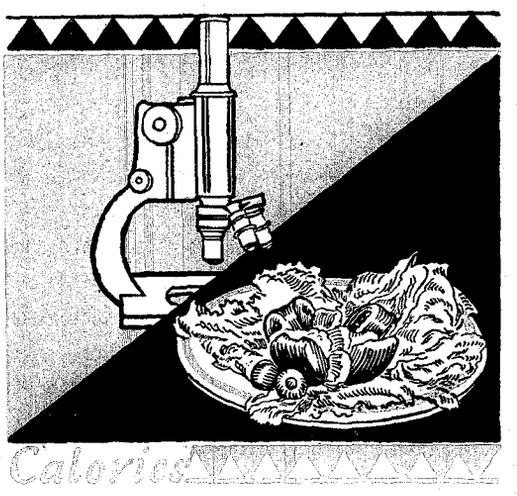
Epicurus to Brillat-Savarin, with a single main dish. The American custom of serving, on ordinary occasions, one meat or meat substitute instead of the two or three that middle-class Europeans have been accustomed to at each meal, is winning out.

After advancing from two meats and a fish course to a single entrée, the next step, obviously, is vegetarianism. To-day it is possible to find vegetarian restaurants in all the cities of Europe, and vegetable plates in a great many restaurants. Vegetarianism and non-alcoholism are habits that are growing in many parts of Europe. In France there is a well-defined movement for *la reforme alimentaire*. Here the non-meat diet has been associated in people's minds with Protestantism, and, latterly, with Communism. Devoted to their traditions as the French are, it would seem that such gastronomic heresies as the avoidance of meat and alcohol must inevitably strike at the very roots of a civilization which the Church has had so large a part in forming. The abbeys, monasteries, and bishops' palaces have contributed no less than the houses of the nobles to the development of French cooking and the perfecting of French wines. These non-alcoholic vegetarians, whether Protestant, Communist, or what-not, have apparently thrown over the Church and all its works, including such worthy creations as Chartreuse and Benedictine. The Paris headquarters of the League Against Alcohol, with a windowful of anatomical charts showing the ravages of alcohol on the body, used to stare accusingly at the ancient church of St. Germain des Près on the other side of the street.



When Eating Was Eating

Truth to tell, this is a sad day for the *Cordon Bleu* cook, or for any cook with creative impulses and pride in his craft. People either haven't the time or the money to do themselves well at table, or else they are pursuing some régime which would have been equivalent to semi-starvation in another century. There is to-day slight demand for the chef's more complex offerings, and little appreciation of his genuine skill, patience, and artistry.

All of these changes noted over the surface of Europe presage, among other things, the death of a great tradition — that of French gastronomy. Although French cooks have borrowed freely from other countries in both methods and materials, the resultant product has always somehow been their own. The new simplicity has relegated most of their really noble dishes to the discard. Such a one as *boeuf en daube*, which required days for its consummation, and unusual ones such as *paté de lièvre* have vanished from restaurant menus. In France there are little coteries of serious, almost professional eaters who try to keep alive the sacred flame of gustatory delight. The *Club des Cent Kilos* eats long and well, and the dinners of the Academy Goncourt are famous. But the highly sensitized palates which enjoy flavors rare and overripe, the noses which can date and designate a bottle of wine with precision, are growing rarer every year.

Along with the decline of the demand for elaborate dishes goes the disappearance of the trays of colorful *hors d'oeuvres*. which are gone from the free-list in nearly all French restaurants. And a salutary thing this is. Liberal consumption of half a dozen assorted little fishes and sausages, hard-boiled eggs, and pickled vegetables not only took the edge off the appetite but deceived the diner into thinking he had had a meal. *Hors d'oeuvres* are all well enough for the effete, but wholly unnecessary to the healthy, sport-enkindled appetite. Nowadays people are ordering an apéritif, a single appetizer, or a soup to bridge the gap of waiting for dinner.

What a change has taken place in the eating habits of the world can be realized only by looking over the bills-of-fare of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when counting calories and checking vitamins was undreamed of and gargantuan meals were relished by all who

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could afford them. Readers of French, English, and German chronicles are incredulous at the amount of food a prelate or a prime minister could stow away in those days. Even the discriminating fare of a Grimod de la Reynière seems unnecessarily complicated to-day.

It was due in large part to such famous literary gourmands (thanks also to a tradition of taste and to splendid natural resources in the way of food-stuffs) that French cooking became preëminent in eighteenth-century Europe. Just as French manners and dress were copied all over the Continent, so it was the cachet of fashion to have a French cook. Cooking was regarded as a fine art, to be placed in the hands of trained men and women who had felt a call to practice it. That art was in great demand at the courts of Russia, Prussia, and Austria. Statesmen and savants, as well as poets, could grow rapturous over a dish, and would themselves frequently improvise one. The list of French dishes invented by great men or bearing the names of noble families is a long one — Condé, Chateaubriand, de Sevigné, de Brissac, Colbert, Lamballe — all are contributors to the tradition. The Revolution was to scatter the nobility and their retainers broadcast over Europe and America and further to disseminate French tastes.

In the nineteenth century French cooking lost much of its refinement. Napoleon was a devastating influence. In the early part of that century he gave Europe little chance to enjoy its meals in peace. He himself ate on the run. He made popular such concentrated comestibles as little meat pies which could be eaten from the hand without tools. Later in the century, the French became very heavy and uninspired feeders, if the characters of Flaubert and Balzac are at all typical. One recalls Madame Bovary's wedding banquet with its endless procession of courses. Only a hundred years or so ago good provincials were, on occasion, sitting at table for six hours, eating and drinking and talking, interested in each new dish as it was presented: a hot one after a cold, sweet alternated with savory, heavy with light — and all washed down with many glasses of wine. Occasionally the steady intake was punctuated with that necessary respite known as a *trou Normand*, a small glass of Calvados (apple-jack with a difference) which whipped the jaded forces to new efforts. Some American menus of the terrapin-champagne period show that New York banqueteers had a similar capacity to sit through sixteen courses.

It was during the nineteenth century, too, that the *pièce montée* became a feature of ceremonious public dinners and important family occasions. A French friend calls up a childhood memory of a christening, followed by the usual interminable dinner at which the *pièce montée*, set up imposingly in the center of the table, was a huge sugar image of her grandfather's silk mill, perfect in every detail. Chateaux, grottoes, waterfalls, and rural scenes done in colored sugar and pastry were popular. The eye even more than the palate must be ravished. To-day such labor and such expenditure would be frowned upon as excessively bad taste. True, there is a brief revival of the pastry cook's art in Austria and Germany at Christmas-time, a sad remnant of its former glory.

Undoubtedly the eating habits of Europeans are undergoing a quiet revolution. Speedier transit and the increased importation of food-stuffs from the Near East and North Africa have introduced more variety into the average home but have tended to neutralize and standardize the cuisine of the large hotels, which has become pretty much the same everywhere. In contrast to the monotonous menus offered by the hotels, the traveler is cheered by the persistance of the peasant tradition of cooking, as practiced in small provincial inns. This has survived unchanged in a changing world. And it is, perhaps, not so strange that modern taste is to some extent turning in this direction.

Peasant cooking is aboveboard; foods appear in their natural shapes and proper seasons. The peasant art is one of *coup de main*, of turning an omelette at precisely the right second, of seasoning a salad never twice the same, of removing a trout from the grill the moment it is ready. It requires only native materials, brought straight from field, stream, or garden to the kitchen; it requires too that the dining table be close to the cooking stove. There is much to be said for the peasant school, whether it be adopted by choice or necessity. It is, I fancy, more conducive to well-being than the arts of the great chefs, or the passing fads of the food reformers. And it is perhaps here, halfway between stuffing and starvation, that the world will find a proper balance.

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Why I Am Having a Child

ANONYMOUS

THERE are many good reasons for not bringing children into this world to-day; the wife who wrote "Must I Have Children?" in the January FORUM, presented the best of them, and answered the question in an emphatic negative. So did I, for the first two years of my marriage, and for the same reasons, though not perhaps with the same assurance that I wouldn't change my mind later. I did change it, and it seems of some interest to tell why.

The objections, in the first place, especially the economic ones, were as discouraging as those she submitted. Like, apparently, all other couples who were married two years ago and had no inherited fortunes, we lived in a three-room apartment; it was in Manhattan, and my husband worked to provide the necessities and pay the exorbitant rent, while I worked to provide the luxuries our generation wants: frequent theater-going, excellent clothes, lots of meals out in good restaurants, and the far from dry hospitality our numerous guests expected. But we had no regular servant, no car, and least of all a serious savings account. We have no bright "prospects" either, beyond the hope that my husband will keep his job, which never will be a very highly paid one, even if prosperity revives.

There is another objection to having children, besides the certainty that they will upset the economic *status quo*. This one is not so frequently mentioned and may be subconscious for the most part, but I'm sure it gives many young wives and husbands pause. I read recently, in *Light in August*, the explicit statement that every man becomes a cuckold when his wife has children, since they thereafter come first in her love. Faulkner expresses it more graphically than most young wives, but the fact remains that they do share with their husbands the thought, and fear, of a child's effect on their romantic *status quo*. The wife wonders if her husband would love her as much if she lost her girlish figure and moved in an aura of cod-liver oil and powdered milk, and the husband wonders if he will still get his due of affection and solicitude.

My husband and I have discussed ways and means of avoiding this unfortunate state of affairs. For my part, I can only hope I'll keep some vestiges of my figure (as most women do after all), and believe him when he says it won't make any difference anyway, since he likes me now for other things. For his part, he sees no reason why his affection for the child should not be in its own way as strong as mine, and outweigh, therefore, any possible jealousy. I shall be on my guard against the feeling that the child is mine alone and that I know best its needs. He wants it as much as I do, it's his as much as mine, we shall have to share the sacrifices made for it: why should it cause serious trouble between us any more than any other nice thing we've planned and struggled to acquire?

Then there is ignorance — for most thinking people the strongest objection, next to the economic one, to undertaking the responsibility of another person's life. What should one do for one's children, and how? We haven't the ghost of a "theory," beyond the obvious one

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that one must give them the best physical care according to present medical standards — fresh air, vitamins, and so on. I'm not sure about the kind of a personality I want my child to have, or at all sure of my temperamental ability to achieve it if I were.

So I'm afraid that while our parents and the hinting relatives of the older generation, who are all so anxious for progeny among young couples, may say we're being unselfish and noble to go ahead, our logical, unsentimental contemporaries must consider us brainless and foolhardy until we've justified our behavior.

Curiosity as a Motive

Just wanting a child isn't a good enough excuse, but nevertheless that is the fundamental source of the business, of course. We want one (and at least another afterward, but we're hardly concentrating on that now) because first of all we both like children. We think they're cunning as small objects, and interesting then and later. A meager reason, but a necessary premise. And then, we admit to a great curiosity: we should love to discover what a child of *ours* would be like. We aren't conscious of any great gift that should be handed to posterity, but we think our families as a whole have some nice characteristics, and we'd like to see which ones would come out in a child of ours.

Or, disregarding its ancestry, what sort of a child can we, as two individuals, produce? Will it be like either of us, or different; will it be fat or thin, have a pug-nose or a turned-down one, be mechanically minded or poetically, an introvert or an extravert? We don't think any of those possibilities, or almost any others, would be a misfortune. We expect to take what we get and like it — and especially to like finding out about it. An old lady I know, who had had a great many children, once told me that the only question she asked when each baby came was, "Is it physically all right?" Beyond that they could be anything they liked and she was amused and pleased.

Then, the fact that our parents want us to have children influenced us. (I pause while the screams of Oedipus, silver cord, mind of your own, slavery to the old, and other unrelated catchwords die down). We're not having it *because* our parents want us to; we believe thoroughly that sacrifice to parents and even excessive consideration for them can cause some of the worst distortions and tragedies in lives and personalities. It wasn't attrition either, for they were careful not to hint *too* often, that brought us around. We are as strong-willed and independent-minded (or self-willed and pig-headed) in respect to attempted parental coercion as anyone.

No, we were influenced because we think that they're not unintelligent people, our parents (we're rather lucky in that), and if they honestly think that children are a great reward in life, a source of happiness that compensates for all the attendant sacrifices and anxieties, there must be something in it — something which we must believe to have some truth in it if we have any respect for their intelligence.

And also we were influenced (here the screams will begin again) a little because we loved as well as respected them. If our having a child meant so much to them, and we could with a little effort overcome the definite obstacles to it, should we on more or less academic grounds make the decision against children that would so disappoint them? I don't believe in carrying on the family line at all cost, but the fact remained that it had been carried on down to us and for the time at least rested in us, since I am an only child and my husband's only brother is unmarried. Were we to quit on that tradition of duty, or privilege, because of somewhat nebulous doubts about the state of the world and our own souls at the moment?

The most fundamental and vital reason of all for our wanting children I can best express by saying that we want to be parents. It appears to be self-evident, but since the desire is evidently not shared by a good many of our contemporaries I should like to try to define it a little more.

I am happy now, I have an interesting and satisfactory life; but there are thirty or forty years ahead of me. I don't want to stay as I am now all that time. I don't want to, because I believe that, as a poet said, our destiny, "our being's heart and home" is in

> Effort, and expectation, and desire
> And something evermore about to be.

If I, or my husband, had a talent or special outstanding ability — if we were artists, explorers, musicians, or great teachers, for instance — we would develop into different people anyway,

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through hard continuous work and concentration, achievement, and then more work. Our energies and interests would be stretched and satisfied at once; we couldn't have children too, and we wouldn't need them. But we aren't people of that sort; we simply have jobs. Our life twenty years hence might very well be just what it is to-day, except for a few additional luxuries.

We of course will change somewhat as we grow older, but perhaps not much, and it seems terrible to me to be still doing then what we do now, and even more terrible to still *like* doing then only what we do now. We read a good deal, we go to the theater and movies, we see our friends and play bridge or talk and drink, we "keep up with the times" and enjoy it; but I don't want to be doing just that in 1955. I had a good time as a child, and then as a young girl, but I'm glad I didn't stay there. It's easier to stop at twenty-five or thirty for the rest of one's life, not to grow beyond that except in a few, nowadays hardly visible, physical signs. What can I do to insure my changing, developing in some other direction than the limited one of being a satisfactory wife, a good hostess, and a contented playgirl? I could concentrate more and more on my job, but it's a routine one, not inspiring enough to be a staff of life. I'm not religious, so religious work, that well-recommended sublimation, is not a solution. I might hurl myself into politics or community work; I might, but I certainly won't, beyond voting and doing as much as any decent citizen does. And so on.

In short, I see no one engrossing interest in my future that will develop my mind (horrid phrase), my enthusiasm, abilities such as they are, and emotions beyond the point where they are right now. And to have them congeal here, no matter how nice my present situation is, seems, as I said, a horror, like locking the door so one will never have to — or be able to — go out.

That, it seems to me, is what people who purposely don't have children do — the people, I mean, for whom there are no really prohibitive obstacles. They preserve the *status quo*, but they cut themselves off from the life that, as far as I can see, children alone bring, unless one has some other all-absorbing interest and devotion: that is, a life lived fully, mentally or physically or both. Of course it doesn't always appear to the outsider that parents are achieving that way of life, but most parents at least feel that they are, and that is the criterion for them. They feel vital, important, *growing;* which is, I humbly submit, the way I should like to feel. As we grow older and less active, our children will be growing more alive and active, and through our sympathy with them we shall stay far younger than if we kept the figures and the interests of our own departed youth.

I hope that I haven't suggested that I expect to get all my future happiness in rearing my young. I don't look forward to the bearing of them, or to many of the less æsthetic features of the rearing, and I certainly don't want to live only in my children. I want my own life too, but I want children to be part of it, because, to sum up, I prefer change and growth to ease, and deep and violent interest to dullness.

The Parents' Recompense

Very well then, we want to be parents; but how can we justify our going ahead and being them in the face of our economic position, our ignorance, and our fears of the future, and why do we think our sacrifice of luxuries and leisure won't be more than we can bear? In the first place, we believe that people aren't deliberately lying to us when they tell us that the luxuries and leisure aren't missed as much as one expects, or at any rate are compensated for by the baby curls, toes and other accessories. And we know from experience that the disadvantages one foresees in life usually turn out to be not quite so terrible as one expected.

Last year we lived in Manhattan and thought, like the author of "Must I Have Children?" that living in one of the other boroughs would be about equal to existence in Sauk Center. We lived in a small apartment, on a noisy street, and blocks to the east of all subways, but "Thank the Lord," we shouted (we had to, what with all the radios and the elevated trains), "it's in Manhattan!" Now we live in one of the other boroughs; instead of being the expected prison cell in a desert, our apartment has four large rooms, a balcony, and an available garden. It's on a quiet street, but the subway takes us to Times Square or to my husband's office in less time than it took us to walk and shuttle from our little heaven in Manhattan. And of course we pay a very much

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smaller rent — so much smaller that with the difference and the money saved by eliminating almost all entertaining (which candidly turns out to be something of a relief in other ways) we nearly make up the amount I earned. So that great bugbear, our living quarters, has turned out, with luck, to be really a blessing. And with the extra room and sun and quiet, they are quite suitable for rearing the very young.

It must be said that we have a little money, one of those thrift accounts that good aunts start in one's youth, which will just pay carriage and delivery charges on the baby; without that we should have had to begin saving long before. But for all further expenses we shall have to produce our own funds, and that we hope to do by economizing everywhere. If my husband seemed in any immediate danger of losing his job, of course we would have waited until the depression was over — that is, perhaps for the rest of our lives. But he doesn't, since he is in a field that isn't overcrowded and in which work must continue to be done. We're resigned to economizing, and we're already finding it's not so terrible. It will be worst next year and the year after, perhaps; but as far as we know we shall have the necessities of life for us and our child.

The luxuries we hope not to miss too much; we can't go to the theater once a week, but we can wangle seats to the two best plays of the year at least, and we can still read. As for entertaining and going places, the friends we like most seem all to be about in the same boat; if they haven't children they can still have us at their homes and don't care about being repaid in kind, and if they have got them they understand our situation.

So we should be able to live decently if not luxuriously ourselves, and give the child a comfortable home, some background of interests, and some friends for companionship. Schooling we aren't planning for now, beyond what goes into the savings account we have finally started; we hope we can afford a good school — by which I don't mean the most expensive — but if we can't we'll simply have to take the public school and try a little harder to provide, if necessary, counteracting influences at home.

As for that home training and education, I am appalled but not entirely discouraged by our ignorance. I don't know exactly what to teach my child about religion, ethics, manners, sex — but neither does anyone else as far as I can see. But in ten years those questions may be more clearly settled than they are now, and in any event I'm hoping that those dependable life-savers, Instinct and Opportunity, will resolve my uncertainties into some kind of inspiration when the moment comes. Besides, I think a child learns more of such things as beliefs and codes of conduct from other people than from his parents; and if I consider the world good enough to bring a child into, I must be prepared to accept its impress on him.

And what makes me think the world is good enough, in the name of all the disillusioned realists who have been my little gods since I was twenty? For one thing just the physical world itself — oceans, fields, mountains, brooks, to look at and to play in. And people, a few: the ones I know and like and whom therefore my child will at any rate know. Also, with a suitable blush at such a hodgepodge, food, love, exercise, thinking, music, experience. The dreadful things, disease, war, and cruelty, I hate and fear; but they are, thank God, the accidents, not the rule.

War is hideous and may be worse in our time. I should wish my son had never been born if he had to go to war, and my daughter if she had to stay home during a war while her men went. But all of that is so uncertain. If I knew without possibility of doubt that there would be a bloody, frightful war involving every American twenty years hence, I suppose I should not have a child. I don't know it, and I can only hope that anti-war feeling, or good luck, or the depression, will stave it off.

One cannot look ahead to such disastrous possibilities as war, disease, and all the menaces of accident and sorrow for one's children or for oneself; if one did, and believed they were inevitable, of course one would have no children, and many of us would not go on living ourselves. We can only hope that life on this earth in our time and theirs will continue to be in the long run a little more pleasant than it is horrible, a little more beautiful than ugly. And when a child has fond parents, enough food, and the wide choice of being either retroussé or Roman-nosed, why shouldn't the odds for felicity and comeliness be a little on its side?

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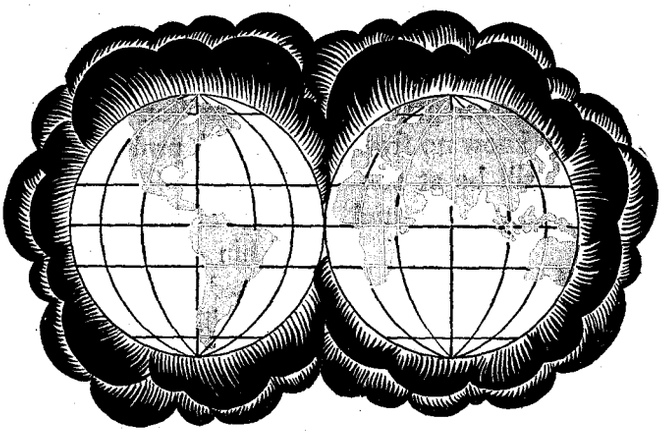
In Our Stars

The World Fifty Years from Now—IV



by **JULIAN HUXLEY**

I

PROPHECY is too often merely a cloak for wish-fulfillment. The Editor, however, is emphatic on that point: the aim of this series is "to present a number of predictions outlining what the authors expect — *not hope* — the world will be like in fifty years." Rule out wish-fulfillments, and you are thrown back on probability. Even the most accurate forecastings of physical science are only bets with enormous odds in their favor: scientific certitude is nothing but an extremely high degree of probability.

With human affairs, the number of as yet incalculable factors is so great that one probability is often as good as another. It is a scientific certainty that society will change during the next fifty years, and that the change will be large in extent. It is possible (in other words, there is some degree of probability) that the change will be retrogressive, toward a new Dark Ages. It is possible that it will be revolutionary, and have led, before the half-century has elapsed, to a quite new world system.

But to me the greatest probability appears to be that change will be progressive, but of moderate rate, and that in fifty years' time we shall be witnessing in definitive and exaggerated form a struggle between various present tendencies — a struggle which is to-day already adumbrated in milder form. That is my bet; and if I use the unequivocal prophetic "will," it is merely to save space and circumlocution. When I say that something will happen, I mean that it *may* happen, and that on the whole I think that state of affairs more likely to happen than another: any social prophet who does more than that is either deluding himself or others.

II

Now for our picture. Politically, the struggle between nationalism and internationalism will have reached a new phase. Economic necessity will have forced a number of smaller nations to join up into federations. We may anticipate about six of such super-nations — the U. S. A., the U. S. S. R., the British Commonwealth of Nations, the U. S. E. (United States of Europe), the C. S. A. U. (Central and South American Union), China, including Japan (or else Japan, including China), each with a few colonies tacked on. Each of these, like most nations to-day, will be animated by self-contradictory economic policies — to be as nearly self-supporting as possible, and to have as large a foreign trade as possible. Politically they will still claim to be sovereign states, with their sovereign rights, their tariff walls, their central governments, their ambassadors, their armies and navies and air fleets. But in point of fact they will have been compelled by the march of events to surrender some of their nominal nationalism to a *de facto* internationalism.

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For one thing, sheer fright at the progress of lethal weapons, together with the need for economy, will have brought armaments down to a lower level. If the nations of to-day and yesterday can be compared with the fanged and armored dragons of the Reptilian Age, the offensive and defensive equipment of those of fifty years hence will be more comparable with that of lower mammals. Then travel in general and air-travel in particular will know no frontiers, and public convenience will be at constant war with nationalist suspicions and formalities.

The League of Nations, though much remodeled, will remain a mere embryo. In fact, although one more step will have been taken toward a World Federation, the very size, power, and distinctiveness of the new units of government will have made the next step harder rather than easier. The forces making for isolation and nationalist feeling will be more potent, since each self-sufficient unit can afford to snap its fingers at the rest of the world; but so will be the forces making for world unity, in the shape of quick transportation and easy communication, of science, of informed public opinion. The same major issue as to-day will still be in existence, but it will be sharper and more clear-cut.

This sharpening of the issues of the present will be the dominant feature of our future world in every one of its main activities. As regards the general structure of society, the great issue to-day is the issue of private enterprise versus social enterprise, of individual profit versus common service. Even in Russia, that is still an issue, however much its form may have been modified from the form it preserves in "bourgeois" countries.

The old idea of machinery was that it multiplied human powers. This has been the dominant view ever since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. But in addition, machinery has become more automatic, equipped with ever more and more labor-saving devices. And the inescapable logic of labor-saving machinery is that it should save labor. However, a great part of human history has consisted in men fighting against the inescapable logic of events, and holding up its consequences for a longer or shorter period; and so it will be with this step in the inevitable process.

The Industrial Revolution is now approaching its end: fifty years hence we shall be well into the Technological Revolution. Industrialism will still be active, trying to check the advance of Technology, or rather the consequence of that advance: but it will be active with the senile agility of an old age frightened by the approach of death. The logic of the situation will have forced industry into new types and on to new levels of organization.

In all probability we shall see a form of industrial Guild Socialism, with each main group of industries organized as a vast unit. Within each unit, inefficiency will have been reduced to a minimum, and wasteful competition will be almost eliminated, through the Council of the group having powers to order the compulsory winding up of superfluous concerns, and through the compulsory utilization, by those that are left, of central purchasing and marketing boards. The several groups will be under a moderate degree of state supervision, and must adjust their output quota to the rulings of a Central Planning Commission on which representatives of all sections of the national life are represented.

Labor will still be paid in wages. But compulsory profit-sharing schemes will be in force, by virtue of which the workman's standard of living will have been very much raised. Further, labor-saving machinery will have so effectively saved labor that four-and-a-half hours will be the average working day.

III

These changes in themselves will have radically affected life; but the herald of a change still more radical will be the growth of a new party which will be to the Technological Revolution what Communism is to the conventional political parties of industrialism to-day. This party will have as the main plank in its platform the abolition of the slavery of science, machinery, and mankind to the dogma of profit. In place of that, it will set up as its goal a condition in which humanity will be able to gratify its basic needs with the expenditure of not more than two hours' work a day, and will be free to devote the rest of its time and energies to doing what it wants. Let us call the new party the I.H.P., standing for International Humanist Party (if anything is certain, it is that it will not have this particular title; but let that pass!) To achieve this

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end, it will propose the abolition of arbitrary media of exchange, and the substitution as its fundamental unit of one based upon the per capita production of the country. This will alter from year to year, and be divided up among the population as a dividend is divided up among stockholders.

Just as the earnings of a company are allocated between debentures and ordinary shares, so here the party platform will have made a distinction between necessities and luxuries. Everyone will receive his or her debenture interest — an allowance for the necessities of food, shelter, clothing, education, and recreation — and will receive it on a scale far above that of the average middle-class man of to-day. In addition to this fixed and non-transferable allowance, there will be a second dividend, distributed in currency form, which will be available for the purchase of luxuries.

I shall be asked, why make my discussion doubly theoretical by introducing into the conjectural actualities of the future a conjectural system of theories? The answer is simple — because the rise of some such system is itself part of the inescapable logic of events, and because it will provide the keynote for the political tune of those new times, the pivot upon which the bulk of humanity's hopes and fears will turn, the ground of an impending combat, in the same way as the Capitalist-Communist issue does to-day.

The conservative forces of the time will, as ever, appeal to human nature. They will no longer be able to say that the profit motive is the sole prime mover of society, since profit will already have been very seriously restricted through state interference, and adequate insurance against old age, sickness, and unemployment will have eliminated from the lives of the workers most of the worry which — sometimes — makes for thrift. Instead, they will say that human nature is incapable of profiting by leisure beyond the modicum needed for rest and recreation, and that, in a society with the time for necessary work reduced to a mere trifle, people will become dissipated, irritable, lazy or restless, discontented or anti-social, and that in general the life of the community will become impossible.

Such doctrine will be urged in all good faith, in spite of the fact that events will already have moved a long way toward disproving it (so in the nineteenth century we were told that acceptance of evolution would make morality impossible, just when thousands of evolutionists were disproving the notion in their own persons; or that society could not function unless people remained in the station to which God had been pleased to call them, just when a new type of society was being brought into being by people leaving their old grooves for something new. So in our own times we have been sincerely assured of the impossibility of Socialism just when the most Socialistic experiments in history are being tried out even by so-called individualist countries). For even with a five- or a four-hour working day the problem of leisure will have begun to loom large, and numerous more or less successful attempts will have been made to deal with it.

By 1983, governments will have equipped themselves with Departments of Social Welfare, and these, working hand in hand with the educational authorities and various private organizations, will be trying their hand on the question. It will have been realized that the problem of leisure is not merely one of finding ways in which not to work. It is largely (though by no means entirely) the problem of finding ways of working which people shall enjoy. For some people, this means a personal hobby. But for a great many it means being able to join zestfully with others in some enterprise which they feel to be worth while.

The Department of Social Welfare and its auxiliaries will provide the framework of organization necessary to canalize these tendencies pleasantly and profitably, and according to individual taste. Some people have mechanical leanings: they can be trained and drafted into organizations building new airplanes or speedboats for the community's use. Others like the sturdy activities of camp life: let them help as part of the needful unskilled personnel on exploring or scientific expeditions. Others have a scientific bent: there are laboratories in which their effort, properly directed, can help toward momentous discoveries. Others enjoy music, or acting; and they — but the possibilities are infinite.

Meanwhile education will have been linked with the idea of social conscription; and boys and girls toward the end of their school careers will be privileged not only to travel but to do some of the work of the world, broadening their

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experience and their sympathies by being assigned some field other than that to which they will later devote themselves professionally. Further, adult education will have gone very far beyond its present general level — a rather sorry one — of striving unhappily for culture missed in youth, and will have developed into a thing of coöperative and general interest, adumbrated to-day in certain study groups, or in such organizations as the winter schools of Denmark's rural population.

From such beginnings it would only be one further step, albeit a large and important one, to the idea that all men and women were called upon for two quotas of work — one, the quota of routine work necessary to provide the basic needs of society; the other, devoted to constructive work whose aim is to make life richer and more interesting. And such a program, elaborated in many detailed ways, will be offered by the insurgent Humanist Party.

IV

As for politics, so for religion, the age will be one of sharpened issues. The old nineteenth-century issue, of literal orthodoxy as against a timorous modernism, is already — not dead, but rapidly becoming moribund. It is sometimes said to-day that the real issue now is between religion and irreligion, as in Communist Russia. That, however, is only a local and temporary accident. The real issue to-day is between supernaturalism and naturalism, between a religion that bases itself on God and one that bases itself on man. The inescapable logic of all modernist movements in religion is away from Theism and toward Humanism, and the same goal, though by a different route, will sooner or later present itself to a great many who imagine that they have thrown religion overboard, when all they have done is to jettison one particular brand of religion. At the present moment people talk of religion without God in the same hushed tones in which, ten years back, they referred to love without consequences.

Fifty years hence, this diffidence will have been overcome. On the one side will stand godless religion — Humanism, if we must have a label — of various brands and on various levels of intelligence; on the other will be a remnant of Protestantism, fundamentalist in type and distinctly shrunken in size, together with Roman Catholicism, hardly diminished in numbers, but at last definitely on the defensive. And between and around the two will hover various hybrid and chimerical sects, material for the collector of queer religions to pin in his cabinet of curiosities as soon as they have run their little span.

One very important point on which the issue will have become extremely strained is that of contraception and eugenics, or, as we can more conveniently summarize it, population control. Birth control, crusaded for in the first quarter of this century, will in the next quarter have spread so far and so fast throughout society that the populations of all industrialized nations will be dropping. We know already that the numbers of countries like England and Germany will turn downhill within fifteen years from now, and the United States is due to join them not so many years later. And once the drop has begun, there is every prospect of its being accelerated if left to itself.

Countries will view with alarm this transplanting of booms and slumps from the sphere of economics to that of population, and will frantically set about trying to find some means of smoothing out the oscillations and controlling the trend. Since it is chiefly economic forces which, in a world with perfected birth-control methods at its command, regulate the numbers of children born, the society of fifty years hence will be busy trying out schemes for controlling the birth rate by bringing economic pressure to bear upon it from both sides. Family allowances of various kinds will have been played with, free higher education for all, tax rebates for children, and other schemes.

The latest method to be introduced in 1983 will, we may hazard, be one involving the principle of the sliding scale, whereby the first two children not merely will cost nothing, but will add to the family's *per capita* share of the national dividend; the next two will neither increase nor decrease it, while further ones will receive no recognition from the state, and therefore, since the total amount received by the family will remain what it was before, their advent will reduce the individual allotments of the rest of the family.

In 1983, this scheme will be under attack from both ends. The conservatives, under Catholic leadership, will be heading a League

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for Racial Preservation, urging its members to disregard all governmental interference and keep up their families for the glory of God (and the increasing survival of the strain of the faithful). On the other hand, the more advanced spirits, grown eugenically minded, will be urging the state to vary its sliding scale in accordance with the fitness of the parents for parenthood, such fitness to be determined by boards of expert assessors.

On one thing all the Great Powers will be agreed — namely, on the desirability of introducing the gospel of birth control to the more backward peoples of the earth. For, while the white race will everywhere be declining in numbers, the natural time-lag of events will have seen to it that the blacks and the browns, profiting by the whites' hygienic ideas, are increasing rapidly.

Socialized medicine meanwhile will have made great strides. It will be compulsory for everybody to take out health insurance: and this will provide for quite good quality medical advice and hospital accommodation. But human hopefulness on the one hand and the conservation of the medical profession on the other will have kept alive an army of private practitioners in addition to a *corps d'élite* of specialists.

Nor will quack remedies and patent medicines have been stamped out. But their Golden Age will be over. It will be over because (say it in hushed tones!) uncontrolled commercial advertising will be a thing of the past. Advertising will still exist: but both as regards the quantity of advertisement and the quality of what is advertised, it will be under the strict control of a state licensing bureau. And this, together with the growth of state departments of information and social education (or, not to put too fine a point upon it, of propaganda come to its full estate), will have radically altered the character and commercial status of newspapers and magazines.

V

But my space draws to its end, and I cannot close without referring to one important change, of whose dawn only the faintest glimmer now is visible. I mean the change in the method by which humanity houses itself. At the Chicago Exposition this summer we are to see the first specimen of the methods of scientific mass-production applied to housing. Fifty years hence, most of the new houses being erected will be of this type, as different from the constructions of to-day as a modern automobile is from a gasoline buggy of the B.F. (Before Ford) Era. The human passion for quaintness and snobbishness, for being "different," for "Ye Olde Style" in home life, will still induce many people to live in Rococo, Tudor, Colonial, and maybe even Victorian pastiches of houses erected by commercial builders from architects' plans; but plain economic necessity and common sense will have driven the majority to plump for the cheapness and scientific planning of mass-production. Just as each year sees new gadgets, new conveniences, new efficiency included in the minimum equipment of an automobile, while still the price, thanks to careful management, goes down, so it will be with housing. People will talk, enviously or proudly, about the make and model of their houses as to-day they talk of the make and model of their cars.

One of the results of this change will have revolutionary effects elsewhere. Fifty years from now the proper "conditioning" of air, both as regards its temperature and its moisture, will be well-nigh universal not only in public buildings but in private apartments. And this will make it possible for the white man to invade the tropics, not merely as an exploiter but with a view to making of them a permanent home. In 1983 we shall be up against the results of that change. Will economic facts justify that invasion? And will it be tolerated by the black and brown peoples who now inhabit those zones of our planet?

That will be one of the anxious new problems of fifty years hence. But the march of events will by then have served mainly to sharpen our great present issue, which is — shall man be dominated by the social and economic forces which have grown up in blind and haphazard fashion during his history: or shall he grasp the nettle and dominate them, as he has in earlier ages learned how to dominate the forces of external nature?

Next Month — "The Most Nearly Contented Americans," by Eudora Ramsay Richardson

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The Todds of Westmore Hill

by **ISABEL R. A. CURRIER**

I

Mis' Todd hadn't been off Westmore Hill for forty-two years. She hadn't ever been out of Vermont in her life. That was why she wasn't much of a hand to talk. She never got to do any visiting unless a neighbor-farmer was up her way hunting stray calves. Once in a while berry pickers from Island Pond would cut through Todd's woodlot, but Mis' Todd never had any traffic with them. She would be hoeing, likely, in the potato patch; or she would be driving the horse rake in the upper field when they went by; and she would stop and shade her eyes with her hand and look at them, but she never spoke.

Drawings by Georges Schreiber

Folks always looked hard at her. She was a little wisp of a woman burnt almost molasses color. Her hair was like pulled taffy in streaks and gray for the rest of it. Strings of it fell down over her face. Mis' Simpson, who lived on the old Haynes' place above Todd's sugar orchard, said likely Mis' Todd hadn't washed her hair for years, but that was guesswork. Mis' Todd was clean. She always wore a blue denim overall frock of Ira's, and her skirt was dark blue calico with white spots. She had all her teeth, and they were white.

In the wintertime, if straw-riding parties went up Westmore Hill, they looked to see a light in the Todd woodshed where Mis' Todd would be splitting wood at all hours. Old Ira never did as much around the place as she did. He worked his woman like a dog — beat her, too. He beat horses and women and puny men. Folks wondered how she stood it, with no woman folks to run to, and nobody to fend for her.

She was a slip of a girl when Ira went down to Charleston and married her and fetched her up to his father's old place. She'd been pretty, Grandsire Simpson said. He was the only one who knew her when she used to traffic with people, and he's been dead a long time. If it hadn't been for Grandsire Simpson, Mis' Todd would have died when Curtis was born. Old Simpson was going by with a team and a load of logs, and he heard her holler in the house, and he went in. She was all alone without a fire, and the baby was coming. Ira was off in St. Johnsbury buying sugar buckets. Grandsire Simpson had to help her; there wasn't time to get a woman. He said she had a hard time and the baby's head got squeezed getting born. Mis' Todd told him she would name the baby after him, and she did.

Curtis was an idiot. He was forty years old and he never said anything. Just laughed, kind of hollowlike; or stared with his mouth open. Mis' Todd had to take Curtis's beatings for herself. Ira had no patience with people when they weren't working, and it was hard to make Curtis understand how to work, although he was big and strong enough.

The Simpsons, and the Burroughs — two miles down by the East Burke road — were the only neighbors. They got out of the habit of going to see Mis' Todd because she never acted like she wanted them, and she never went visiting herself.

It was July when Ira Todd was struck by

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lightning. Or maybe it was August. He wasn't really struck by lightning, but he was walking through the woodlot and a tree was struck. The tree broke off above the third branch and came down on Ira. It was a monstrous big tree. Must have killed him quick as a whistle.

The Simpsons thought they must be seeing things when Mis' Todd came walking up onto their kitchen porch.

"Well, my land of livin', if it ain't Mis' Todd," Mis' Simpson said. "Come right in."

Mis' Simpson was canning her raspberries, so it must have been July.

Mis' Todd didn't go in.

"He got hit by a tree," she said.

That's all she said — just that way: "He got hit by a tree."

"Curtis did?" Mis' Simpson said.

"Ira." Mis' Todd said.

"Is he hurt bad?" Ed Simpson asked. Ed had been washing up in the kitchen and listening.

"He's dead," Mis' Todd said.

"Oh, my land of livin'," Mis' Simpson said. "Come right in, Mis' Todd!"

Mis' Todd stayed standing there.

"I can drag him out if you can lift the tree," she said to Ed.

"I'll hitch up Nellie," Ed said. "'Twon't take a minute, and it'll save a lot of steps."

He went up to the barn, running, and Mis' Simpson came onto the kitchen porch with Mis' Todd.

"I'll come, too," she said. She was excited. "Wish I could let the Burroughs know. My land of livin', what'll you do, Mis' Todd? My land of livin', a body never knows when his time'll come, does he? Why, I saw Ira this mornin' when I went up to the oat field with some ginger water for Ed. He was layin' into Curtis with his hoe handle up in the turnip field. I thought somethin' ought to be done about it, but Curtis is a man grown. . . . How'd it happen?"

"What's them flowers?" Mis' Todd said, like she hadn't heard a word.

"Them? Why them's sweet peas. They're late. Don't tell me you don't know sweet peas!"

Ed came out of the barn with Nellie all harnessed, and hitched her to the buckboard.

"There ain't room for you, Emma," he said to Mis' Simpson.

Mis' Todd got in and they drove away.

II

Ed said Ira was an awful mess. His head was gashed clean open and all spilled out. Mis' Todd took him by the shoulders and pulled him out from under the tree while Ed and Curtis lifted the tree with a cant dog. Ed said Curtis kept chuckling like he was at a church picnic. Ed said it gave him the creeps.

They carried Ira in the house, and Ed went down to the Four Corners to telephone to Island Pond.

Mis' Todd was hammering in the woodshed when he got back.

The sheriff came out, and the doctor, and John Thomas. He was the coroner, and he said Ed ought to have known better than to move Ira. He said Mis' Todd couldn't be expected to know, but Ed ought to have.

Harry Phelps, the undertaker, came. He said he'd see about the burying. They all went out to where the tree had fallen. Mis' Todd left them standing there and went off, and when they got back to the house they heard her in the woodshed again. She was nailing some planed boards together.

"I'm aimin' for you to bury Ira in this," she said.

The men looked at each other, but couldn't think of anything to say, so Ed Simpson said:

"I'll help you, Mis' Todd," and started to take the buck-saw to cut up board.

"I can do it," Mis' Todd said, so they went out and left her.

They went in the house to help the undertaker, and when they came out toward night, Mis' Todd was sitting on the front steps. Curtis was with her, and the men wondered where he'd been all afternoon.

"We'll take the box down to Island Pond in the wagon," the sheriff said. "We'll bury Ira to-morrow."

"You tend to it," Mis' Todd said. "Curtis and me can't go down."

The men argued with her for a while. It was like they were talking to themselves. She never answered them. So Ed and Mis' Simpson, and the Simpson young-ones and the Burroughs were all that were at the funeral.

Ed and Mis' Simpson drove up to see Mis' Todd that night, and brought her a pie.

"What you goin' to do?" Ed asked Mis' Todd.

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"Well," Mis' Todd said, slow. "I'll have to do the mowin' and see to the potatoes. Maybe we'll lose some of the turnips. I won't have much time for hoein'."

"Ain't you goin' to hire a man?" Ed said.

"You ought to go down to Island Pond and see Lawyer Ryan about Ira's affairs," Mis' Simpson said.

Mis' Todd looked kind of bright for once.

"I guess I will go down," she said. "They's a railroad down there, ain't they?"

"Land sakes! They's been a railroad there for forty years," Ed said.

"I ain't seen it," Mis' Todd said.

"My land of livin'," Mis' Simpson said. "Ain't you never seen a railroad?"

"No," Mis' Todd said. Then she went on talking like she was interested.

"I've had a hankerin' to see it for a spell," she said. "Ira rid on it two or three times. I guess I'll go see it."

"Well, I should think you would," Mis' Simpson said. "Where you been that you ain't seen a railroad?"

"I been on this farm forty-two years," Mis' Todd said. "I reckon I'll go see the railroad."

Curtis came up from the barn where he'd been bedding the cows.

"I've stayed pretty close to fend for Curtis," Mis' Todd said, kind of fast. "There wa'n't nobody to fend for him. I reckon he'd be all right a day if I went to Island Pond to see the railroad."

Mis' Simpson said she felt kind of a lump in her throat, and Ed, he was coughing.

"I'll take you to Island Pond, Mis' Todd," Ed said.

"We'll take you, Mis' Todd," Mis' Simpson said. "We'll all have a holiday."

"No, I can go alone," Mis' Todd said.

"But you ain't got a horse," Ed said.

Ira never bought anything while he could borrow or hire.

"I was aimin' to walk," Mis' Todd said.

"It's nine mile," Ed said.

"That ain't no walk," Mis' Todd said.

She went on talking. The Simpsons never knew she knew that many words.

"I'll take me a lunch," she said. "It must be a pretty walk down to Island Pond. Is Island Pond awful big?"

"Well, they's 3000 people or better," Ed said.

Mis' Todd looked scared.

"Do you reckon I'd get lost?" she said.

"My land of livin', no!" Mis' Simpson said. "It ain't that big."

Well, sir, the very next day the Simpsons saw Mis' Todd go by. She had on a black skirt that had got rusted and she had on Ira's old peanut straw haying hat. It set 'way down on her head. She had a newspaper parcel — likely her lunch. She looked spry, and waved when she went by, but she went right along and they didn't bother her.

At noontime she was sitting on the culvert in front of Warren's eating a piece of bread and cold salt pork when Jim Warren came along.

"Why, Mis' Todd," he said, "it seems funny to see you 'way down here."

"I'm goin' to Island Pond to see the railroad," Mis' Todd said.

Jim didn't know what she meant, and thought she might be a little light on account of Ira, you know, and the way she had been alone for so long.

"You come right up and set in with us," he said. "We ain't had dinner."

Mis' Todd went up, and she sat in and ate dinner with the Warrens and the hired men, and she never spoke one living word all the time. All she said was when she went in. She looked at Mis' Warren and said:

"I'm goin' to Island Pond to see the railroad."

Well, the Warrens kept talking out of wanting to say something, and the hired men just ate and went out. After dinner, Mis' Todd

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helped clear, and she dried the dishes for Mis' Warren. Then she put on that hat of Ira's, and went to the door.

She turned around at the door, and said to Mis' Warren:

"Come and see me next week. Curtis and I are a-goin' to kill a hen."

That's the only time that Mis' Todd ever invited anyone to come and see her.

Then she walked off down the road.

III

She must have got to Island Pond about four o'clock, because quite a few remembered seeing her but nobody knew her. It seems like she just went on down Derby Street, stopping and looking around and gaping at the houses and the people. When somebody'd look right at her, sharp, she'd kind of smile, but she never said anything, and they didn't.

On Cross Street she met John Thomas.

"Well, I'm glad to see you, Mis' Todd," he said.

"I come to see the railroad," she said.

"Haven't you seen it?" John Thomas said.

"No, I ain't never," she said. "Is that it that I can hear?"

"Yes, that's an engine," John Thomas said.

She was kind of shaking a little. John Thomas thought he'd like to be with her the first time she saw the railroad. It seemed foolish for her not to have seen it, when the railroad had been through Island Pond for forty years.

"Can't I walk along with you, Mis' Todd?" he said.

"I wish you'd show me where the railroad is," she said to him.

"Well, it's just at the end of this street," he said. "You'll come in sight of it in a minute. You can see the station from here."

"Will I see it all at once?" she asked him — for all the world, he said, like his grandson when they had a Christmas tree.

"I tell you what," he said, joking, "you take hold of my arm and shut your eyes and I'll tell you to open them when we get down to the station."

He said he was never so surprised in his life as when she took hold of his arm and said:

"They're shut. Can we go now?"

He led her down Cross Street, and he said he was figuring on the way of driving her back up to Westmore Hill. It wasn't more than two minutes' walk to the station, and when they got over to the platform he told her to step up. and she stepped up. He said there was a yard engine shunting around and the bell was ringing, and she just hung to his arm like it was all that kept her in life. He said she kind of hurt his arm.

He got her in front of the station on the platform, and said:

"Now open your eyes, Mis' Todd."

He watched her, and she opened her eyes, slow, and she looked at the box cars and the eight tracks, and she kind of choked her breath.

John Thomas said her face looked like a little girl's. She stood and looked at the tracks, and John said he felt kind of bashful about saying anything, so he just stood and looked at them, too.

Then she let go of his arm and ran to the edge of the platform, and bent down and touched the rail.

She looked back at John Thomas and laughed right out loud.

"Ain't it shiny?" she said.

Then she stood up and stepped onto the track and looked up and down and across, and looked and looked. John Thomas thought she'd never get tired of looking.

The agent came out, and John told him who Mis' Todd was, and how she had never seen the railroad before. He wasn't paying much attention to Mis' Todd, and all of a sudden the agent yelled:

"Look out," he hollered.

John Thomas looked and there was the yard engine shunting down the third track and Mis' Todd had wandered over there. It was coming pretty fast, and Elmer Hughes, the engineer, blew his whistle like mad.

"Look out," Thomas yelled, and Mis' Todd couldn't hear him.

She stood there just looking at the engine. Her mouth was kind of open and she had throwed her head back. I suppose she was taken with how big the engine was. Her face was all excited-looking.

It was all over in less than a minute. Mis' Todd never turned a hair. She stood square in the middle of the track, and faced that engine until it hit her.

They took Curtis to the County Farm.

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The New School Trend

Sows' Ears from Silk Purses

by **FLORENCE SYKES MELLOR**

FOUR years ago and within four months of graduation from college, I was engaged to teach French in a delightful old school, a private institution of considerable reputation, which had prepared for college and for the business of living, the mothers and even grandmothers of many of the children then attending. My associates were to be women of culture and ability and my pupils a choice group, born into cultivated families, encouraged in what we term the finer things, endowed for the most part with better than average intelligence and abundant good health. Here was the ideal opportunity for a young and enthusiastic teacher, as yet without fixed theories of education.

Every school day I taught French, lived French, beginning with little folks of six and seven who mimicked perfectly every sound, and ending with high school girls, self-conscious and afraid of being conspicuous in a new language. With the little ones, everything was not all sunshine, of course, for they fought on occasions and insulted each other in a thousand cruel, childish ways — but they did want to learn.

Past the fourth grade, however, trouble began. The difficulty is, I believe, that just then everything else began — music lessons and practicing, dancing, elocution, riding, and any number of other activities, all more exciting, more striking in their appeal than geography or arithmetic or French. The parties, the week-ends, the movies — all vied with the teacher, who consciously fought a losing battle. The only thing left to do was to make school itself into a stunt party. We didn't actually pin the tail on the donkey, but we were urged to do quite as ridiculous things in a vain attempt to "make it interesting."

The geography-history teacher openly rebelled at having to adopt the new-fangled methods pressed upon us by our superiors. She had taught successfully and inspiringly for more than twenty years, and under her direction geography and history held romance for the better-brained even when no cheap side-show tactics were resorted to. Wishing to be open to conviction, however, she spent much time on all the supposedly "interesting" facts about Pilgrim life, but by the end of the year the class could not tell whether the Pilgrims were in Michigan or Massachusetts, and such an important matter as the Mayflower Compact did not remain in their heads at all, even though they had dramatized the signing of it — in costume.

My children worked and liked it. Not knowing a word of French when they came to me, in a seemingly short time they were greeting me with sentences, simple to be sure, but grammatical and complete. They delighted the school with plays in the foreign tongue. I heard them singing and saying snatches of French to each other in the school yard, and their mothers reported that they were amazed at the proudly displayed accomplishments of their offspring. And I had never thought of method.

These method-conscious educators, I find, are almost entirely maiden ladies, well past forty, who are frightened to death of appearing old-fashioned and "set." The young teachers, as yet uncrystallized, and impatient to work with the children in their care, are not persuaded by the shoddy results of the ultra-new. No one of them is for the ultra-old, either. No one of them would make your child learn the 17 table, but she does know he'll have need all his life for the 5 and the 6 and he may as well learn them by heart, formally, 5×1 equals, 5×2 equals. Children like to work; don't make them think it is play. *Work is not play*, as all of

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us have learned, though work can be delightful and satisfying in its own right.

Last year the sixth grade entertained us with a series of tableaux representing Greek goddesses, and I am sure those children will remember them better than I who once memorized their names in alphabetical order. Yet this method cannot be carried into every field of study. I defy anyone to dramatize French verbs or make tableaux of propositions in geometry and succeed in knowing anything about either. Such attempts are downright ridiculous and the children know it. I have seen a Spelling Play in which one child is *ough*, for example, another *double l*, and the result is appalling. Arithmetic plays, health plays, and all such trumped-up nonsense, designed to convince the child of the value of learning to multiply or of eating porridge, display no worthy use of the drama and build up a dislike for it as soon as the pupil discovers that the play part is only a sugar-coating for his same bitter pill.

According to the plan of the progressives, it is not enough to read the story of Columbus. In addition, if not instead, the third grade is set to work making clay models of Columbus's home, his visit to the King and Queen of Spain, the three ships, the landing in America. The result, after weeks of labor, is only a messy confusion with men larger than houses and ships, a crude indistinguishable mass of rubbish which has taught them not one thing about that dramatic incident in our history. They have simply been kept busy and, I suppose, have "expressed themselves." The fourth grade spent days constructing an Eskimo village from white rubber balls cut in halves for igloos and an abundance of cotton batting and glass wool to represent snow. Why in the world should any child in the north-temperate zone spend school time, or any time for that matter, making artificial snow? Another class made Indian tom-toms by administering a coat of red paint to twentieth-century, machine-made nail-kegs. The fun they had pounding the finished product I don't mind admitting, but while they were acquiring their rations of self-expression, the rest of us in the building were perfecting ourselves in the more ancient virtue of self-restraint.

The school, it can be seen, has become a place for handwork instead of for headwork. In my school days, the dullard and the mental shirk was miserable. He hated school; he was shamed in every class by those brighter and more ambitious than he. He left school as soon as his years permitted for farm or factory or perhaps a hopeful father's office. How altered is his fate now! I have seen a dull-eyed girl who could not tell her own birthday praised extravagantly for a wobbly dish which would hold nothing. The lazy child, the child of little mental acuity, of no intellectual ambition is happy in the modern school — why not? But what about the average and the brilliant children, the bright-eyed, tense little things who in an arithmetic lesson clamor, "Give me a hard one. Give me one Julie can't do?" They find joy in headwork, and I have no patience with those who are setting them at building flimsy bird houses and crocheting suet bags. These moderns have made school attractive to the sluggard, but they are fast making it a bore for the mentally alert.

The "Creative" Cult

Now that the revolutionists in education have knocked down the idol of conformity and with it our hope of molding the young according to a tested formula, they have been able to set up instead only the vague and romantic ideal of self-expression and the development of personality through the unfolding of the child's interests. But ought we not first to ascertain that the child has something to express and provide him with adequate tools for that expression? I refuse to recognize the crude, misshapen, grotesque clay models of everything under the sun as expressing anything but a waste of time. The obvious satisfaction with the poorest and meanest is the chief fault of this "creative" cult. The grandmother of a ten-year-old, noticing the child's written work and finding it invariably marked "Good" in spite of its cramped illegibility, said one day, "If your teacher thinks that work is good, Jean, she doesn't know what she's talking about. You drop in after school and let grandma show you how to write." Jean did, and under old-fashioned guidance, with grandma's hand directing hers at first, she soon wrote well. Moreover, she respects her grandmother's honesty and terms the teacher simply "goofy." Even for the beginner there must exist some ideal toward which he shall strive; in so far as he approaches it, his work is good; as he fails to

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approach it, his work is poor. Any tottering, infirm article is not praiseworthy because a child has made it.

The determination of the progressives to withhold from the child all models, lest he be influenced by them and his own inspiration thwarted by preconceived ideals of what is good and beautiful, results in depriving him of the heritage of past culture, setting him adrift outside the current of all tradition, and rendering him unappreciative and uncritical of the gifts of past generations, which, having long ago passed the experimental stage, now offer themselves as worthy of the beginner's study. Every infringement of the generally accepted rules is regarded as a new trait, unique and superior, indicative of special genius and warranting cultivation. A blue horse then becomes a work to be marveled at since the young artist must have perceived when he made it, something invisible to the unseeing eyes of mankind as a whole.

However seriously we accept the dictum — "and a little child shall lead them" — we need not look for any great contributions from school children. All are imitators; they soon realize that to differ is to suffer. A mother who wouldn't for the world wear a red hat and an orange dress believes her boy a sprouting genius when he paints a purple boat on a yellow sea. I know, however, that he is glad to represent them as they are, once the facts are brought to his attention.

These play methods have resulted in unprecedented extravagance in education. First, there has been the material waste of money, for the expressionist procedure cannot be followed with a blackboard and a piece of chalk. There must be sand tables, easels, paint, clay, beaverboard, sewing-machines, typewriters, indeed every instrument known to art and industry. One would suppose our children had only the school years in which to live and that they must make the acquaintance of all these things before that time had elapsed.

Then there has been the waste of school time. The child has been encouraged to stumble through a given (or supposedly self-imposed) task at his own rate of speed and in his own way when a few well-chosen directions would have saved him time and energy. When a choice is left to them, children will argue heatedly simply to cause delay. But they accept with pleasure an artful suggestion. "What song shall we sing this morning?" brings a deafening roar of answers, all different. No one will concede to a neighbor's wish and no song is chosen. Children know very well that full and final choice does not rest with them and they have been wise enough to see through the pretense as a time-killer.

In our enthusiasm to liberate the child from the shackles of the old education, we forget that at best, in twelve years of elementary and secondary training, we can give him only the tools. As it is, we have not been giving the pupil his money's worth. That is the reason English I has become a course in ordinary grammar for university freshmen, why chemistry departments in colleges have had to inaugurate arithmetic classes before students could proceed to learn chemistry. We have squandered the child's time on creative drama, creative rhythm, creative composition, creative camping, and what not, without allowing him sufficient practice in the mechanics of learning.

The present depression and consequent tightening of the purse strings may have some good effect educationally. We may find ourselves, without all these accessories of self-expression, back in the days of teaching our children to write simple declarative sentences and to add a bill of groceries. We may have to pull from the shelves the dusty Milton and Shakespeare, long abandoned in favor of budding class-room poets. Unlimited time, unlimited funds, and dire uncertainty as to the end in view, have carried these reformers far afield from what the sincere workers for improvement in education intended. It was indeed a mistake to provide no means of development for those not gifted in, or having little liking for, things mental; it is a far greater mistake to subject to the absurdities of the play-school those who are capable of things more worthy.

Impractical Education

One cannot deny that the sincere educator must keep in mind the welfare of the pupil, as the progressive code demands; but the really forward-looking teacher will consider his pupil's well-being as an adult, in which state he must pass the larger part of his life. His elders regulate hours of eating and sleeping because they know what is good for him; it is ridiculous

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that they should abandon to his feeble judgment the decision as to what he will or will not do in other equally important matters.

The new educators insist that school should not prepare for life, as it frankly aimed to in the old days — it should *be* life. That is decidedly what the modern school is not. In it no child must be made conscious of his differences and peculiarities. He will, you are informed, thrive on a diet of praise, not of criticism. So you must laud him for every feeble effort and every piddling result. You must not compare — Jean's is good — Marie's is better — Hilda's is the best I have received. Oh no. "All the papers I received were splendid, children. You will try a little harder next time, I am sure *etc.*" I cannot see that this refusal to make distinctions is following at all the first precept of the progressives, determination to regard individual differences, for in this school every player is given a prize at a game in which the inexact and the fumbling win equal glory with the alert and the accurate.

These schools assure you that children will be admitted and promoted not on the merit of their accomplishments but on their potentialities. And that, they say, is life — when indeed they must know this cold old world will not praise you for the sonnet you *might* create; it may get around to mention your sonnet forty years after you have gone, all discouraged and terribly conscious of your inferiority, to your last resting place. These little victims of all approval and no disapproval will find life outside their highly psychologized playhouses rather tougher than have we who came through with sufficient criticism to make us aware of our shortcomings.

The progressive school has a wrong idea of what people in a machine age want when it supposes that by means of a project method strictly followed children will learn to work collectively, unselfishly, and for the good of the group; that when a child eventually becomes a full-fledged member of working society, he will, as in school, be content to plod along at his little task and follow it up with some hobby which he has found through expressing himself at school. Actually, whether he belongs to a poor or to a wealthy family, he will go to work at a routine job, for profit and not for pleasure, and it will not be his desires which are consulted. He will take the job which circumstances present him. It is folly, then, to fill our young people with the absolute falsehood that life in this age is a little project in which each may have a part, expressing himself and co-operating with his fellows just for the fun of it, as he does when he builds a chicken-coop on the school grounds.

Panem et circenses, plenty of both, are what the people want. Our greatest concern should be with that lesser number who desire more than these. We should do far better to devote our time to these keener brains and to abandon the thankless task of trying to make attractive an unpalatable dish of culture for those who would rather not have it at all. In other words, we must separate the sheep from the goats, selecting on the basis of intelligence, in so far as it can be measured, those who will carry on the common tasks of society and those who will concentrate their further studies on its present problems and future civilization. The great obstacle in the way of accomplishing such a division is the prejudiced parent. I say parent because it is usually one, the mother. Although it is certain that her boy might be a better plasterer or plumber's assistant, every mother envisions her son as the member of a profession and a great scholar, and no teacher can convince her otherwise. Only success or defeat at the work he finds when done with school will prove what he is really good for.

So the school which proudly insists, "Here there is no such word as failure," is but deceiving the child. The world is full of failures, pathetic figures who have tried and tried and still fallen short. Outside the toy society of his school, the fact that the child has expressed himself and got nowhere has no value, even though he has been engrossed and happy in what he was doing. I maintain that his time is wasted unless he has some definite result to show; some new skill, some truth learned, some different point of view than he had before. When the new school recognizes that the world will always demand results, it will, instead of offering the *grand prix* to everyone who merely tries, regardless of success or failure, conduct its model society on the principle of assuring a just and generous reward for each worthy contribution, since achievement is the measure of growth, manually and intellectually, and advancement in and out of school must follow only as one increases in accomplishment.

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Radio Reviews

Spring Fever

by **CYRUS FISHER**

EVERY year about this time there is a giddy arrival of new radio programs. Three of the better pre-seasonal showings are included in this month's reviews. From the evidence, I suspect that the big chains have almost depleted their stock of novelty goods and that regional or single-station experiments are destined to become the major source of new radio fashions. There were to be more than two regional programs commented on here, but the covey of new nationals took up the available space. Lynn Murray's and Virginia Baker's "Bill and Ginger" (C.B.S. eastern network, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:45–9:00 A.M.) was among the regionals crowded out. And I am sorry, for it is one of the sprightliest song and patter patterns to be deprived of a national audience. Chesterfield needs just such a bit of nonsense to fill the sad Tuesday and Friday gap made by the departure of Tom Howard and Betty Barthell.

JOHN HENRY

"*John Henry — Black River Giant*," with Juano Hernandez as "John Henry," assisted by Rose McClendon, Richard Huey, Jack McDowell, Emmett Lampkin, Ralph Ransom, Maurice Ellis, Service Bell, Georgia Burke, and Ivan Hernandez. Vonzell, announcer. Long, production. Garrick, director. Mason, sound engineer. Nichols, sound effects. Garrick and Hernandez, continuity. Sustaining program — no advertising. C.B.S. 8:00 and 8:45 P.M. EST. Every Sunday. (Two distinct episodes, each lasting fifteen minutes.)

Geraldine Garrick, who directs this production, collaborated with Juano Hernandez in dramatizing Roark Bradford's "John Henry" stories for the radio. Her design and construction draw away from the stage and cinema and boldly enter into audible, dramatic illusion. Here are a series of episodes woven together by the chants of Negro spirituals: chants rising as the grandfather conjures up the legends of "John Henry" for the grandson (a minor part but played with curious vividness); chants harsher, fearful as "John Henry" once again strides into the world; and then the slow ebbing of chants, plaintive and deep with melancholy as the episodes close and return to the cabin of the grandfather. Mr. Hernandez as "John Henry," Rose McClendon re-creating "John Henry's" women, and a fine, sensitive all-Negro cast mark a definite advance in dramatic broadcasting.

GRAND OPERA

Metropolitan Opera. Milton Cross, announcer. Dunham, production. Grey and Resides, studio engineers. Cross, continuity. Sustaining program — no advertising. N.B.C.

With the new ribbon microphones and other technical improvements the reception of this year's Metropolitan Opera broadcasts was, to my notion, much better than from certain Opera House seats I have paid good coin of the realm to sit in. Lawrence Tibbett in the première of *Emperor Jones*, Lily Pons singing the Bell song, the lovely Christmastime *Hansel and Gretel*, and the always appreciated Wagner cycle were only a few of the events worthy of praise. If the same expert attention expended on the mechanics of broadcasting can only be given Milton Cross, whose explanatory remarks, in principle, consisted of reassuring us that two and two were four, and if the full-length opera broadcasts be made the rule and not the exception, then the future operatic broadcasting season will be well-nigh perfect.

RADIO REPORTERS

"*The Inside Story*," Edwin C. Hill peering weekly into our leading personalities. Nathaniel Shilkret's Orchestra and dramatic cast. Van Vorhies, announcer. Loesch, production. Sanford, director. La Porte, engineer. Nichols, sound effects. Fickett and

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Sanford, continuity. Sponsored by The Socony-Vacuum Corporation. 2 minutes, 15 seconds' advertising time. C.B.S. 9:30–10:00 P.M. EST. Every Friday.

(Sustaining program, "*The Human Side of the News*. C.B.S. 10:30–10:45 P.M. EST. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.)

Edwin C. Hill has the schoolmasterish determination to make what he says interesting by insisting that it is interesting. The prominent guests appearing on his "Inside Story" take part in dramatizations of episodes in their careers. Babe Ruth, Jerome Kern, Amelia Earhart, and others have so far provided a varied menu, with Mr. Hill as toastmaster. "The Inside Story" can be taken regularly. The quality of the other Hill series, "The Human Side of the News," varies.

Lowell Thomas — To-day's News, featuring Lowell Thomas. James Wallington, announcer. Thomas, continuity. Sponsored by Sun Oil Company. Approximately 2 minutes' advertising time. N.B.C. WJZ limited regional network. 6:45–7:00 P.M. EST. Daily except Saturday. Sunday WEAF 5–5:15 P.M.

A smooth, well-documented summary of current news is provided by Lowell Thomas. His program is little embellished, as I was prepared to expect after enduring his lecture-platform talks, with romantic squirmings.

Charles J. Gilchrest, Monarch Reporter, with Monarch Mystery Tenor and string trio. Vincent Pelletier, announcer. Czerwonky, musical director. Wetzel, production. Reynolds, studio engineer. Ashbaucher, sound effects. Sponsored by Reid, Murdock, and Company. 2 minutes, 10 seconds' advertising time. N.B.C. WJZ network. 2:00–2:15 P.M. EST. Every Sunday.

Through the odor of moth balls surrounding the Mystery Tenor, Mr. Charles J. Gilchrest advances for a three-minute dissertation on the latest radio celebrity. The Monarch Reporter is done the most grievous injustice. Of all the talent his person alone is refused the consolation of anonymity.

The Prodigal Returns

Old Gold Program, with master of ceremonies John P. Medbury, tenor Tom Waring, and Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians. David Ross, announcer. Hight, production. McGarrett, director. La Porte, engineer. Nichols, sound effects. Medbury, continuity. Sponsored by P. Lorillard and Company. Slightly less than 3 minutes' advertising time. C.B.S. 10:00–10:30 P.M. EST. Every Wednesday.

Much crooning has slid over the air-waves since Paul Whiteman barnstormed the first Old Gold show into popularity. Whether or not the new hired hands can escort the prodigal back to the head of the table is questionable. Fred Waring is a dance master of parts. He does not chop his tunes short. They are played long enough for the listener to circumnavigate the parlor floor several times with a pair of nice legs. Tom Waring helps out with one of those clean-cut, lavender tenor voices so mysteriously adored at present by possessors of nice legs. Gentle David Ross makes the commercial time more than tolerable with the assistance of several unnamed stooges.

But the gentleman praised last month, Mr. John P. Medbury, seduced from Hollywood to salt the Old Gold confection with his brash wit, has evidently been mellowed by some stern, repressing authority. Mr. Medbury tries hard to be civilized and rattles his box of puns. But that isn't enough. His sponsors will have to unmuzzle him and take their risks about having the neighbors' programs bitten or confide all their hopes to Fred Waring's baton.

Music School Programs

Eastman School of Music Program, with student symphony orchestra alternating with woodwind and string ensembles. Dr. Howard Hanson, Samuel Belov, and Paul White, musical directors. William Fay and Jack Lee, announcers. Lee, production. Hall, engineer. Sustaining program — no advertising. N.B.C. WJZ network. 4:00–4:30 P.M. EST. Every Wednesday.

Although the woodwind and string ensembles seem more gracious, a little more expressive, all the Eastman School of Music broadcasts are refreshing and a relief from hack professionalism. Furthermore, there are no hasty snatches from half a dozen composers. Ample time is given to two, at the most three numbers. Please listen in. You'll be agreeably surprised.

The Curtis Institute of Music Program, with Fritz Reiner directing the student symphony. Student vocal and instrumental soloists. West, announcer. Feyhl, production. Geist, engineer. Sustaining program — no advertising. C.B.S. 4:15–5:00 P.M. EST. Every Tuesday.

There is less emphasis on group orchestral or symphonic interpretation in the Curtis Institute programs. Place is found for the introduction of embryo concert and opera soloists of more than average charm. This series has the serious, youthful eagerness found in the Eastman School productions with the same gratifying results. Another "please."

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Alphonse and Gaston

The Woodbury Program with Morton Downey, Donald Novis, Adele Ronson, and Leon Belasco's orchestra and occasional actors. John S. Young, announcer. Wiggin, production. Norman, sound engineer. Alcorn, continuity. Sponsored by John H. Woodbury, Incorporated. 4 minutes, 5 seconds' advertising time. N.B.C. WJZ network. 9:30–10:00 P.M. EST. Every Wednesday.

Even with Leon Belasco's mellifluous orchestra and a weekly pillow fight between Messrs. Downey and Novis, few half hours can resist the withering poison of four minutes and five seconds of commercials. One testifying beauty hung on for three minutes without interruption. Furthermore, the horrible politeness of the two tenors toward one another degenerates into burlesque when you realize how little they have to fear from the quality of each other's vocal baggage. Either of the two love birds, sparingly used in a spot prepared and built up for him, might be acceptable. But no one can make a supper composed entirely of two kinds of cream puffs.

The Bedtime Symphony

Howard Barlow and The Columbia Symphony Orchestra, with tenor Nino Martini (Wednesdays and Fridays only). Knight, announcer. Breen, production. Hagberg, engineer. Sustaining program — no advertising. C.B.S. 11:00–11:30 P.M. EST. Monday to Friday, inclusive.

Mr. Barlow offers light opera on Mondays, salon music on Thursdays. Tuesdays are reserved for the classics, with a dramatization of an episode in the composer's life. Nino Martini sings operatic arias on Wednesdays and Fridays. The broadcasting is skillful, because Mr. Barlow understands the microphone.

Above Par

Real Silk Program, with Vincent Lopez's orchestra and comedians Pratt and Sherman. Charles Lyon, announcer. Riehl, production. Webster, studio engineer. Ashbaucher, sound effects. Sponsored by Real Silk Hosiery Mills. 2 minutes, 50 seconds' advertising time. N.B.C. WJZ network. 10:15–10:45 P.M. EST. Every Sunday.

Eight minutes of Vincent Lopez's smoothly brittle melodies; ten minutes of Pratt and Sherman, two minor comedians supplied with above average material, in a musical comedy "House of Prepresentatives" act which would be very good indeed if it had not been done better in *Of Thee I Sing;* and nine more minutes of the Lopez outfit lift the Real Silk Program above the Sunday rut. Mr. Lopez manages to crowd seven numbers into his time but perhaps we are supposed to listen and not roll up the parlor rug. There is an unnamed tenor (the voice sounds like that of Johnny Morris but I'm not at all sure) who should appear oftener.

The Crime Wave

"Charlie Chan Mysteries" — Friday's Five Star Theater, with Walter Connolly and cast. George Hicks, announcer. Radcliff, production. Perry, sound engineer. Saz, sound effects. Sponsored by Standard Oil Company. 2 minutes, 35 seconds' advertising time. N.B.C. Limited WJZ network in East and South. 7:30–8:00 P.M. EST. Every Friday.

The gentleman who dramatized Earl Derr Biggers' Charlie Chan mysteries forgot that the primary requisite of a radio mystery play is action. Long stretches of static conversation and water-logged soliloquies hold the brakes down on Friday's Five Star Theater. In addition to the slowness, Walter Connolly plays the Chinese detective by the simple expedient of pinching his words and articulating like a man with a bad cold. Nevertheless, the plot makes grand melodrama and the staginess over the air shouldn't prevent the infants from monopolizing the receiving sets between seven-thirty and eight.

The Townsend Murder Mystery, featuring Thurston Hall, with Lois Campbell, John Hamilton, Frank Wilson, and large cast. Bennett Grauer, announcer. Frank McCormack, director. Kulick, sound engineer. Kelly, sound effects. Octavus Roy Cohen, continuity. Sponsored by Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company. 1 minute, several seconds' advertising time. N.B.C. WJZ network. 7:45–8:00 P.M. EST. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Within three minutes after the opening episode started we were rapidly introduced to the Townsend houseparty where the murder was committed and the victim found; the hero and the love interest; minor police characters; the detective, "Jim Hanvey," around whom the plot swings; and two suspects (who, according to the formula, should not be guilty) Mr. and Mrs. Townsend. Octavus Roy Cohen, who is responsible for the serial drama, and Frank McCormack, the producer and director, have set a smart pace. Thurston Hall is too lazy-voiced, too determined to make his rôle of "Jim Hanvey" lovable. If he can insert more sting into his lines, the "Townsend Murder Mystery" should rank among the nicer spring shockers.

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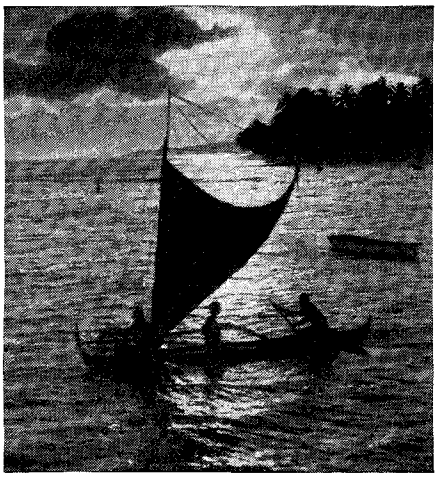

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OUR ROSTRUM

These columns are open to brief letters commenting on articles that have appeared in The Forum. Due to space limitations, the Editor reserves the right to publish the letters only in part.

Regionalism

To the Editor:

I believe very strongly in firm coöperation between states in connection with many social and economic problems. I think, therefore, that what is described in Mr. Lewis's article "Regionalism" (March FORUM) is not only sound but necessary in many instances. I do not believe, however, that regionalism to be really effective should necessarily be geographical, although it may be in certain cases. If we are dealing with the question of milk control, obviously we want to have an agreement or compact with the continuous or neighboring states, such as New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. If, on the other hand, we were dealing with a social economic question, such as minimum wage for women or unemployment insurance, a compact or agreement to be really effective would have to include those states with which we come into general industrial competition, such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Connecticut, Indiana, Illinois, Massachusetts, etc. In other words, I think regionalism should be based more largely on functions than on geographical situation.

HERBERT H. LEHMAN, GOVERNOR
Albany, N. Y.

The Social Credit System

To the Editor:

Mr. George Soule in "Which Way Out?" (March FORUM) writes irresponsibly in his brief description of the Social Credit Proposals of Major C. H. Douglas. These Proposals are very inadequately described as a "plan to cure depressions." They will do that, if put into effect, but that is incidental to the main aim, which is to remedy the chronic shortage of purchasing power prevailing under orthodox financial rule at all times, good and bad. When Mr. Soule says that Major Douglas advocates "price-fixing," it is permissible to wonder how much Mr. Soule has studied Social Credit, for there has been a great deal of clear writing on the distinction between price-fixing and price-regulation, and what Major Douglas proposes is price-regulation to fit the dynamic character of an economic situation. The Douglas analysis applies with equal force to the financial systems of the U. S. S. R. and the U. S. A., which makes the insertion of the words "the basis of private ownership" pointless in Mr. Soule's attempt to state Major Douglas's central idea. Mr. Soule said: "credit expansion on the basis of private ownership leads to

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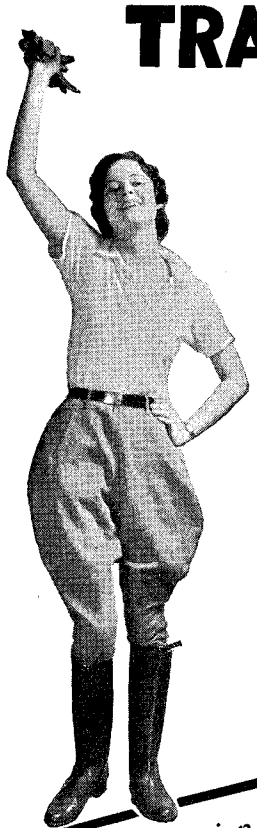

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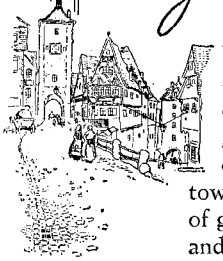

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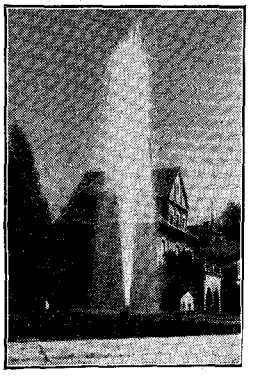

Our Rostrum

producing more than consumers have the power to buy." This should be compared with Major Douglas's own formulation: "Financial credit pretends to be, but is not, a reflection of real credit." It therefore seems fair to say that in the present state of his ignorance it is not surprising that Mr. Soule should find it "difficult to see how this plan could be worked without a thoroughgoing reorganization of our economic system."

ELIZABETH S. HOLTER
New York, N. Y.

U·S·

Special Award

To Graham McNamee and Floyd Gibbons, on behalf of the American public, THE FORUM awards a bottle of triple-strength corrosive mouth wash in appreciation of their part in the broadcasting, on a world-wide hook-up, of the Inaugural ceremonies on the afternoon of March fourth. This citation commemorates their unfailing bad taste throughout, and specifically (1) the conceit which prompted them constantly to inject their own personalities into the limelight on an occasion of international importance, (2) their feeble and inappropriate attempts at humor in reporting an event of great dignity, (3) the resounding insincerity of their made-to-order enthusiasm, (4) the embarrassment they must have caused the President and all his well-wishers by their extravagant efforts to put a heart-throb into their accounts of his demeanor and behavior. All the world was waiting for news of America and the manner in which it was meeting its crisis on that fateful day, and much of it had to come from the lips of these two gentlemen. In effect, they were serving as our ambassadors to the universe. For the black eye they gave their country by their conduct on that occasion may Heaven reward them justly if the National Broadcasting Company will not.

In Defense of the Movies

To the Editor:

I found it very difficult to read Dalton Trumbo's article "Hollywood Pays" (February FORUM). After completing it, I can say that I tried to read it just as unbiasedly as possible. But it hurt me to read his pedantic disparagement of our marvelously progressed cinema. How slightingly he mentions Norma Shearer's

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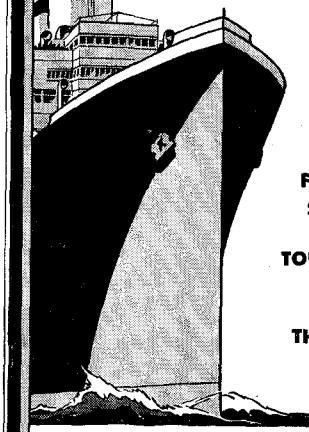

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Our Rostrum

picture "Strange Interlude," and indirectly, "A Bill of Divorcement," Maurice Chevalier's delightful pictures, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," and the like. Mr. Trumbo "exposes" the monetary disposition of moving-picture companies. He surely ought to consider the countless people who so enjoy the movies. Among them I know quite a few persons of decided intellectual attainment. Mr. Trumbo might as well attack all civilization and human nature, accusing them of pecuniary instincts!

M. B. ROSENTHAL

Paterson, N. J.

Chase Bank's Interest in Fox

In his article "Hollywood Pays," in the February FORUM, Dalton Trumbo said: "Fox Pictures has borrowed so many millions from Chase National Bank that it begins to be a serious question whether Chase controls Fox or Fox controls Chase. The sum involved — between $100,000,000 and $150,000,000 — belongs to the realm of war reparations."

The Chase National Bank informs us that Mr. Trumbo greatly exaggerated the facts, which he did not obtain from official sources. In fairness to the Chase National Bank we wish to place on record their denial that Mr. Trumbo has given a true picture of the situation.

Vital Religion

To the Editor:

The following appreciation of "What Religion Means to Me," by Eleanor Roosevelt (December FORUM), attempts to express the great interest and satisfaction this inspiring article holds for me.

The glimpse it gives of her clear concept of vital religion — through which the spiritual side of her life stands revealed — is a most gracious and valuable expression from the First Lady of our country.

Through her definition of true religion (entirely free from bigotry, creeds, and superstition) her sincere, liberal mind and charitable spirit speak. She writes: "The thing which counts is the striving of the human soul to achieve spiritually the best that it is capable of and to care unselfishly not only for personal good but for the good of all those who toil . . . upon the earth." This type of religion, when universally applied in thought and conduct, will regenerate mankind and transform human environment.

In this article the following liberal statement occurs: "It is the inner growth that is important. If people can attain it without the help of what might be called religious routine, that is for them to decide." From beginning to end the worthy character of the article impresses earnest, aspiring readers who know it rings true.

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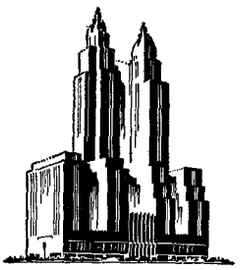

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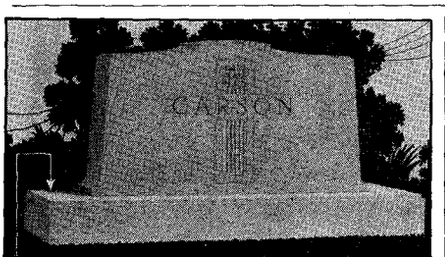

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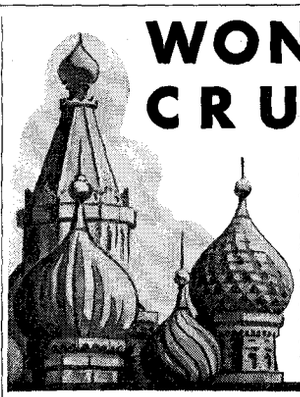

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Our Rostrum

Ballad of a Bourgeois

To the Editor:

Was the lady school teacher from Idaho in earnest when she asked about the omission of Edgar Guest and Zane Grey from the list of modern writers? I can't think so; her letter ("An Oversight, Perhaps," January Rostrum) was surely in a vein of delicate irony. That was merely her way of pouring obloquy, contumely, and opprobrium over the futile scribblers mentioned, without losing her own personal dignity.

Anyway, it inspired the following lyric, which I humbly wish to dedicate to her English class with the hope that they will not be too harsh:

BALLAD OF A BOURGEOIS

Of all the critics beneath the skies
The modern critics I most despise.
They laugh at Longfellow, at Bryant they bellow;
While Edgar A. Guest is an uncouth fellow.

They pepper us fast with *milieu* and *genre*,
While all the old singers are left without honor.
At the rippling efforts of Walt Mason they curse
And snickeringly jibe, "It could be verse."

I try to read the noble creed
Of the poets from back beyond.
But Service, they cry, is a hell of a guy
From the backwash of Hudson's Pond.

I read a page of *The Purple Sage*,
The great American novel,
But Grey, they say, in mighty rage
Is less used to pen than shovel.

And so at my idols they wink and flear,
Giving them naught but grimace or leer.
If I find a new master they witheringly say,
With a shrug of finality, "He is passé."

They've drawn a circle to keep me out,
Bourgeois and Babbitt they ceaselessly shout.
But Winchell and I have a plan that's a gem,
We write our own column and crucify them.

G. C. BOOTH
Another English Teacher
Santa Paula, Calif.

The Rebirth of the Individual

To the Editor:

Professor Faÿ's article, in your January issue, on the condition of this world fifty years hence, is as eloquent a denunciation of our poor, bewildered modern era as I have ever read. In energetic, clear-cut

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Our Rostrum

phrases, we are shown how the revolutionaries of the eighteenth century, the philosophers of the nineteenth, and the technicians of the twentieth have conspired to relieve man of his individual identity by compressing him into the inchoate mob, how they have taken from him his privacy, his independence of thought (which is equivalent to stealing thought itself), his divine right to live his own life, and have made of him a cipher, whose sound and fury, with admirable mathematical logic, mean nothing at all.

Progress and invention, it is implied, are hollow words. We have discovered better ways of making the animal within us comfortable. But the animal has kept on clamoring, and the machines built to satisfy him have become so efficient that they have ended by mastering both him and all the world. Morally, man is no better than he was a thousand years ago. He gets just as much pleasure out of killing as he ever did, and war has not lost an iota of its attractiveness. Spiritually, the professor tells us, man has declined, rather than progressed. He has surrendered the largest part of his individualism to the herd instinct. He has coveted "the one new and completely modern pleasure — that of feeling oneself part of the crowd." Left alone, he has become helpless. He has lost his spiritual vigor. He has been dying of an empty head and a full stomach.

What of the future? The stomach is no longer full, but the head is as empty as ever. Communism, heir of capitalism, now seeks to shelve its aged parent. Both are really alike, because, preaching different ideals, they reach the same result — a dull, lifeless collectivism. The only difference is that, in our present economic order, there is at least a chance for the individual to find religious salvation, whereas in communism even this is denied, for the only salvation is the salvation of the mob, and God has become a member of the bourgeoisie.

The future will be dyed red with violent struggle. Communism and fascism, those arch-apostles of uniformity, are girding themselves for war against the western world and against the few paltry shreds of individualism which our civilization has managed to retain. The outcome is dubious, but (and here the professor sounds his only cheerful note) in the conflict the individual will be reborn, for the orgy of materialism and mob-rule will make a rebel of his soul, will drive his spirit within itself seeking strength and beauty. He will "rebuild his religious life"; he will "create new arts"; he will "discover new emotions and passions. What joy is greater than that?"

If there is any problem whose solution we should look for in the world fifty years from now, it is not the emancipation of

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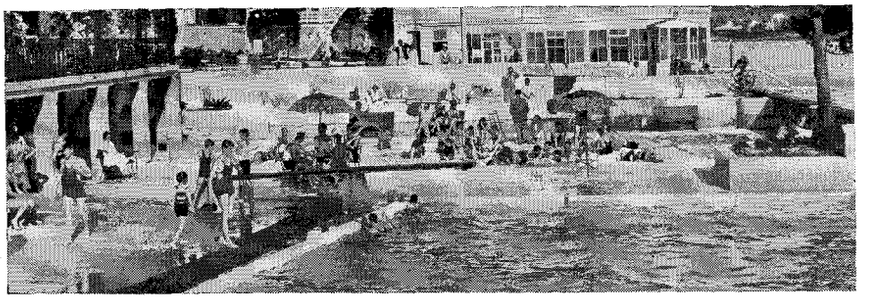

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HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAPITAL AND ACCELERATE ITS GROWTH. When to buy and when to sell — an interesting discussion of these questions from the technical viewpoint is presented in this folder. A. W. Wetsel Advisory Service, 1540 Chrysler Bldg., New York City.

These booklets may be obtained by addressing the firms listed or

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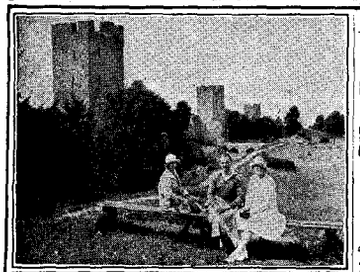

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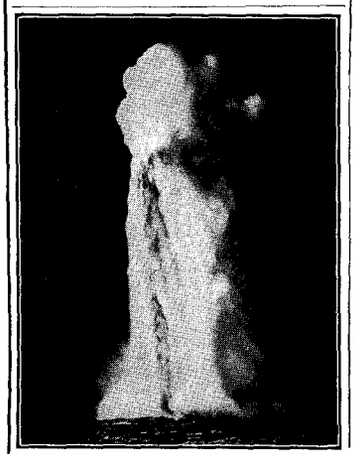

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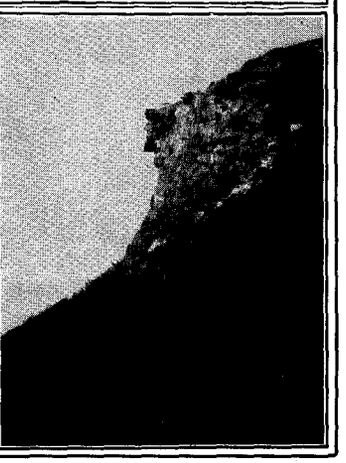

Our Rostrum

individuals, but the reformation of economics. Science and the machine are not to blame for our present collapse. Incompetence is the cause of it all — incompetence and the greed of that very individualism which M. Faÿ insists has so lamentably departed. For there are other ways individualism can express itself besides phrases and sounds and colors and marble. It can shake the earth with its lust for power as well as with its love for beauty. Communism and fascism may have grown so strong, and capitalism so weak, that, as M. Faÿ suggests, the economics of the western world may be compelled to find its readjustment in violence. I am no advocate of such a struggle, nor do I admit its inevitability. But a reform of some kind should, and must be, accomplished. There are many ways for those who cultivate the inner life, who worship the things of the spirit, to fulfill their desires. There is one way, I suggest, which is at least as good as any other. Let them join hands in the present task of reconstruction, and they will find the religion they seek, they will achieve the ideals which they have exalted.

HAROLD ARTHUR LEHRMAN
Ithaca, N. Y.

Mr. Guedalla's Propaganda

To the Editor:

"The Big Brother Complex," by Philip Guedalla, in your December issue, is delightfully written, to say the least. The expressed opinions of well-informed Englishmen concerning our relations with Latin America are always interesting; but in this instance I believe that Mr. Guedalla has fallen into factual error in his assumptions.

I have lived in Latin America more or less continuously for about ten years, both in Mexico and in South America. It is my impression that Mexico is the only important Latin American republic in which Americans may be more disliked than other foreigners; and even in Mexico, the late Ambassador Morrow was able to interpret the United States to the Mexican people in terms altogether pleasing to them. I venture that there is less animosity against America and Americans in Mexico now than has been the case for many years.

As far as South American republics are concerned, a clear comprehension of the amazing pace at which American citizens, goods, and institutions have been displacing those of Britain and other European nations in recent years does not fit in very well with Mr. Guedalla's assumptions. The general trend in these matters is, in fact, quite the opposite of that which he describes.

I do not know to what extent Mr. Guedalla may be familiar with Latin America, nor do I know upon what evidence he may have based his assumptions. One is led to suspect that if he has visited the principal Latin American capitals, he may have passed a considerable portion of his spare time in the many hospitable British clubs that are to be found in those cities. The general atmosphere in such places is invariably genial, pro-British, and anti-American.

It is all the more unfortunate that in Mr. Guedalla's few digressions from his mother tongue, he reiterates the phrase "Peligro Yanqui," conveying the impression that this is a phrase commonly to be found in Latin American newspapers. I read Latin American newspapers daily, and have done so for years, but I do not recall ever having seen exactly that phrase in print before.

In our propaganda-ridden country, foreigners experience little difficulty in obtaining respectful hearings. It is well to

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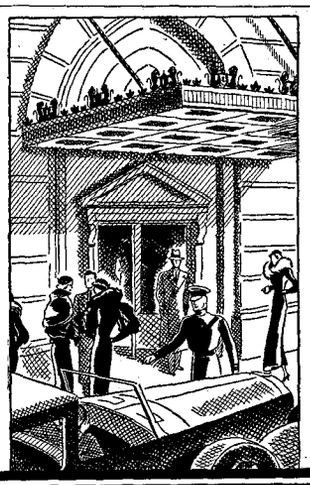

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bear in mind that while most foreign comment and criticism concerning our affairs is clever, nearly all of it is tinged with propaganda. Mr. Guedalla is mistaken in assuming that Latin America regards us with increasing distrust, or even with a lesser degree of friendship and respect than it accords to other nations.

CHARLES L. BRADBURY
Huanuni, Bolivia

Mrs. Castle Wins

To the Editor:

These debates with no decision! I, for one, would like to assume the rôle of judge to give Mrs. Castle the decision in the debate on suicide in the February FORUM. Mr. Cross's article reads like the finespun theory of an exaggerated individualist. Theories make interesting conversation, but when it comes to everyday living most of us hug Mrs. Castle's code. All adults with any degree of maturity and experience grant the truism that it requires more courage to live than to die. Mr. Cross talks about the normal suicide. Is there any? Most people who arrive at suicide, for reasons justifiable or otherwise, have removed themselves from the normal group. I grant Mr. Cross that a man has a right to take his own life if his own life is the only factor involved. But few men can claim that isolation in human relationships. As judge, I would tell Mr. Cross that the structure of his nice, scholarly argument crumbles away before Mrs. Castle's warm, vibrant philosophy of living.

EDNA B. KING
Hot Springs, S. D.

A Doctor's View of Suicide

To the Editor:

I have often said that I supposed I had probably seen and treated more suicides than any one man in the world, as the result of my discovery of a cure for bichlorid of mercury poisoning. When the treatment had been applied and the patients began to get well, I would casually ask them whether they cared to live on, and I do not remember more than two out of a thousand suicides treated by me who really did not want to get well after their rash act. The two who did not want to get well had a very definite love affair that complicated their continued existence; one was married and one was single. A love complication seems to be the dominant factor in the female suicide. Love fathoms deeply in our existence with its ramifying complexes. Euthanasia is, or can be considered, an individual's problem. Social and economic collapse may pass over, and I do not think it should ever be the ruling motive in evading life's complications.

DR. JOHN HENRY WILMS
Cincinnati, O.

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